Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-241
Friday
15 December 1995

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-241 *15 December 1995*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat To Officially Nominate Self for Elections *[Jericho VOP]* 1
Sinyurah To Run as Jerusalem Candidate in Elections *[AL-QUDS 14 Dec]* 1
'Abd-Rabbuh: Jerusalem Key to Peace in Region *[Jericho VOP]* 1
Timetable for Transfer of Ramallah Powers Agreed *[Jericho VOP]* 1
Hamas Issues Statement on Cairo Talks With PA *[AL-QUDS 13 Dec]* 2
Hamas: Cairo Dialogue Not Linked to Elections *[AL-ASWAQ 14 Dec]* 2
Main Points of Hamas-PA 'Agreement' Detailed *[MA'ARIV 14 Dec]* 3
Hamas Denies Split Emerged on PA Self-Rule *[AFP]* 4
Palestinian Youth Shot Dead in Hebron *[Jericho VOP]* 4
General Strike in Effect *[Jerusalem Radio]* 5
Alliance Condemns Arrest of Jordan's Shubaylat *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 5

Arab-Israeli Talks

Syrian Envoy: Warning Stations Not Only Obstacle *[London AL-MAJALLAH 16 Dec]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

AIS Calls For Intensified 'Guerilla Operations' *[Paris International]* 7
Details of AIS Statement *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Dec]* 7
TV Employee Dies After Assassination Attempt *[Algiers TV]* 7
Security Services Eliminate 36 'Criminals' *[Algiers Radio]* 7
FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter *[Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT 12 Dec]* 7

Egypt

UN Decision on Nuclear Issue Called 'Triumph' *[MENA]* 11
Speaker Denies U.S. Request To Investigate 'Excesses' *[MENA]* 11
Mubarak Praises Relations With Saudi Arabia *[SPA]* 11
Musa: 'Expectations Good' for Bosnia Agreement *[MENA]* 12
Mustafa Amin Mocks Election Results, NDP Democracy *[AKHBAR AL-YAWM 9 Dec]* 12
Arrested 'Terrorists' Confess Assassination Plans *[MENA]* 12
Columnist Resents 'Elimination' of Copts in Elections *[AL-WAFD 9 Dec]* 13
New Weekly Magazine Appears on Stands *[MENA]* 13
AFP Correction to Rights Group Reports 51 Killed 13

Libya

UK Decision To Expel Envoy Criticized *[London AL-HAYAH 14 Dec]* 14

Sudan

Al-Turabi on Islamic Revolution in Sudan, Iran *[IRNA]* 14

Garang Appeals For Help To Establish Radio Station *[Omdurman Radio]* 14

Tunisia

U.S. Official Robert Pelletreau Pays Visit 15
Meets With President Ben Ali *[Tunis Radio]* 15
Meets With Investment Minister *[Tunis Radio]* 15

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Oman

Foreign Minister Talks With Iranian Ambassador *[IRNA]* 16

Qatar

Foreign Minister Meets With Iranian Ambassador *[IRNA]* 16
Government Signs Protocol on Joining WTO *[WAKH]* 16

United Arab Emirates

Iranian Presidential Adviser Alviri Visits Dubayy *[IRNA]* 16

IRAQ

UN Delegate Criticizes Human Rights Official *[INA]* 17
Exiles Form Human Rights Association *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Dec]* 17
'Aziz Meets South Korean, Italian UN Delegates *[INA]* 18
Fuel Shortage Protested in al-Sulaymaniyah *[INA]* 18
Head of French Interests Section Visits Marshlands *[INA]* 18
U.S. 'Violation' of Airspace Protested to UN *[INA]* 18
Referendum, Democracy, U.S. Intentions Viewed *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 9, 10, 11 Oct]* 19

ISRAEL

Peres Briefs King Husayn, Mubarak on U.S. Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Peres Comments on Meetings With Clinton, Nabulus *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Peres Raises 'Strategic Partnership' in U.S. Talks *[HA'ARETZ 15 Dec]* 30
Clinton Said Opting for Peres' Syrian Deal *[HA'ARETZ 14 Dec]* 31
Paper Views Peres' Reception in Washington *[MA'ARIV 14 Dec]* 32
Peres on Talks With Syrians, Elections *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Sarid, Sne Said To Oppose Peres' View of Final Agreement *[HA'ARETZ 15 Dec]* 34
Golan Settlers Seek Meeting With Christopher *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Polls Show Majority Opposed to Golan Withdrawal *[MA'ARIV 15 Dec, etc]* 35
Peres Reiterates Need To Annul Palestinian Covenant *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Delay in Bethlehem Withdrawal Under Consideration *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Police Prevent PA Cultural Meeting in Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Salmovitz Joins Likud; To Run in Elections *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 14 Dec]* 36

JORDAN

Oil Pipeline Project With Iraq 'Suspended' *[London AL-HAYAH 14 Dec]* 37
Energy Minister Comments on Project *[AL-MAJD 11 Dec]* 37
Senator Views Restrictions on Opposition *[THE STAR 14-21 Dec]* 37

LEBANON

Speaker Criticizes U.S. for Ignoring Country *[Beirut Radio]* 40

Buwayz: Syria Not To Negotiate Nation's Affairs *[Beirut Radio]* 40
Al-Hariri's Office Denies Reports on Meetings *[Beirut Radio]* 40
Cuban Official Arrives, Meets President al-Hirawi *[Beirut Radio]* 40
Signs Agreement, Departs *[Beirut Radio]* 40
Hizballah Leader Interviewed on Various Issues *[ETTELA'AT 29 Nov]* 41
Hizballah Reportedly Hands Over Mosad Agents to Army *[Tehran International]* 42
Seized 'Fundamentalists' Suspected of Planning Attacks *[AFP]* 43
Court Hears Testimonies on 1976 Murder of U.S. Envoy *[VOL]* 43

SYRIA

Warren Christopher, Delegation Pay Visit 44
Arrive in Damascus *[Damascus Radio]* 44
Meet President al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 44
Press Views Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 44
Radio: 'Specific Measures' Needed To Achieve Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 45
Al-Asad Sends Amnesty Draft Law to Assembly *[Damascus Radio]* 45

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Taleban Fires Missiles at Kabul Residential Areas *[Kabul Radio]* 46
Shells Hit Hospital *[Tehran International]* 46

India

Article Discusses Defense Needs, U.S. Arms *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 9 Dec]* 46
Article on Raphel Remarks, U.S. Kashmir Policy *[INDIAN EXPRESS 12 Dec]* 47
Kashmir Leader: U.S. Not Interested in Normalcy *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Daily Views Delhi, U.S. Views on Kashmir Vote *[JANSATTA 9 Dec]* 48
Radio Says U.S. Interest in Kashmir Not Selfless *[Delhi International]* 49
Indian, PRC Troops Pull Back From 4 Outposts *[Delhi Radio]* 50
PRC's 'Burgeoning' Defence, White Paper Viewed *[THE TIMES OF INDIA 7 Dec]* 50
Envoy: Moscow To Continue Arms Supply to Delhi *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Armenian President Heads Delegation on State Trip 51
Departs for Trip With Delegation *[Yerevan SNARK 13 Dec]* 51
Arrives; Schedule Detailed *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Holds Talks With Rao, Signs Accords *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Extends Support on Kashmir, UNSC Candidature *[Delhi TV]* 52
Attends Banquet *[Delhi Radio]* 52
Growth of Money Supply Restricted *[Delhi Radio]* 52

Iran

U.S. Strategists Seen Behind Taleban Appearance *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Decision To Let UNHRC Envoys Visit Assailed *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 3 Dec]* 53
Russia Seen Creating 'Crises' in Central Asia *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 3 Dec]* 54
Jannati Discusses Upcoming Majles Elections *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Ruhani Comments on GCC, Islands Dispute *[Tehran TV]* 55
Khamene'i's Office Hails Leader's Welcome in Qom *[IRNA]* 57
Atomic Energy Agency Benefits From Research Theses *[Tehran TV]* 57
Daily: Navy Able to Respond to Future Threats *[IRNA]* 58
*Stipend Increases for Students Studying Abroad *[RESALAT 10 Aug]* 58
Rafsanjani Inaugurates Giant Dam in Maragheh *[IRNA]* 60

Pakistan

U.S. Remark on Karachi Described as 'Interference' *[THE NATION 13 Dec]* 60

Senator Expresses 'Surprise' Over U.S. Statement *[THE NATION 14 Dec]* 61
Paper Supports U.S. Official's Views on Karachi *[NAWA-I-WAQT 12 Dec]* 61
Member of UN Group Expelled for Wife's Espionage *[THE NEWS 13 Dec]* 62
New Move for Settlement of Karachi Crisis Planned *[THE NEWS 13 Dec]* 62
Prime Minister Comments on Karachi Situation *[Pakistan Radio]* 63
Minister Blames Altaf Group for Talks Deadlock *[Pakistan Radio]* 63
Minister Ali on Afghanistan, Kashmir, Other Issues *[PANORAMA 14 Dec]* 63
Officials Ready for 'Structured Talks' With India *[THE NATION 11 Dec]* 64
Talks With India on Trade Expansion Reported *[THE NEWS 13 Dec]* 65
China-Aided Nuclear Plant To Be Commissioned in '98 *[Pakistan Radio]* 66
President Receives Indonesian Air Force Chief *[Pakistan Radio]* 66
President Discusses Army's 'Professional Competence' *[THE NATION 11 Dec]* 66
General Sees No Cutbacks in Military Budget *[THE NATION 11 Dec]* 67

Sri Lanka

Defense Official Interviewed on 'War' Situation *[SUNDAY OBSERVER 10 Dec]* 68
Devolution Said Only Solution for Peace, Prosperity *[DAILY NEWS 14 Dec]* 69
Military Fears LTTE Planning 'Massive Attack' *[AFP]* 70
Official on 'Future Operations' Against LTTE *[Colombo International]* 70
LTTE Leader Gives Martyrs' Day Address *[soc.culture.tamil 11 Dec]* 71
LTTE Preventing Civilians From Returning Home *[Colombo International]* 73

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat To Officially Nominate Self for Elections

JN1412130895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Dec 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat inaugurated the Palestinian-Greek Friendship Society in Gaza a short while ago. [passage omitted]

President 'Arafat earlier had said he will officially nominate himself for the coming presidential elections. He stressed the importance of participation in the coming presidential and legislative elections which will be held on 20 January.

Commenting on the incident which took place in the Hebron Governorate, President 'Arafat said: Efforts should continue to stop such acts.

In accordance with the presidential decree President 'Arafat issued last night, nomination of candidates for positions in the presidency and the Palestinian legislative council began today. [passage omitted]

Sinyurah To Run as Jerusalem Candidate in Elections

TA1412182395 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 14 Dec 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem — Hanna Sinyurah has announced his candidacy for one of the two Christian seats from Jerusalem in the upcoming legislative elections.

Sinyurah made this announcement yesterday evening at a reception held at the al-Rabi' Hall attended by a large number of Jerusalem figures.

'Abd-Rabbuh: Jerusalem Key to Peace in Region

JN1412213095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Dec 95

[Report by Salim Abu-Salih in Hebron]

[FBIS Translated Text] During a celebration hosted by the Palestinian Child Arts Center in honor of the center's friends in Hebron this afternoon, Culture and Information Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh asserted that Jerusalem is the real key to peace.

He added: We welcome any progress in the Syrian-Israeli or Lebanese-Israeli negotiations; however, we reject that these negotiations be the start of closing the Arab-Israeli file and introducing [Israel] into the Arab and Islamic Worlds before resolving the issue of Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state.

'Abd-Rabbuh demanded the convening of an Arab summit before discussing the future and normalization of relations between the Arab and Islamic states on the one hand and Israel on the other. He said: The Arabs and Muslims must say their word.

'Abd-Rabbuh added: Jerusalem is a red line. Arab-Israeli relations depend first and foremost on Jerusalem. He also called on the Arab states to shoulder their responsibilities toward the holy city, and welcomed the Saudi statements emphasizing that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of the future Palestinian state, God willing.

'Abd-Rabbuh said that the commitment to, and implementation of, any future agreement cannot take place without the Israeli side honoring the signed agreements, particularly related to the release of prisoners and detainees. He stressed that the file of prisoners and detainees should be closed before the end of May 1996, at which time the final status negotiations will begin.

Regarding elections, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the Legislative Council will shoulder a great national responsibility as it will observe the final negotiations, and it will also supervise and build the structure of a Palestinian entity in terms of regulations and laws. This council will also influence the future of the Palestinians.

'Abd-Rabbuh called on our people to effectively and widely participate in the elections, adding that a Palestinian vote in the council can determine the destiny and future of our people and the bases on which our state will be established.

He criticized some voices which use religion as a cover at a time when they have nothing to do with religion. These voices call for boycotting the elections. 'Abd-Rabbuh called for a good selection of candidates away from tribal or party bigotry. He also called for electing national and efficient candidates who can draft and entrench the bases of the coming Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Timetable for Transfer of Ramallah Powers Agreed

JN1412181495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Dec 95

[Report by Rashid Hilal in Ramallah]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian and Israeli sides have agreed to transfer 15 civil powers in the Ramallah area next week as part of a set timetable. This agreement was reached during a meeting held at the occupation's Civil Administration headquarters in Bet-El in Ramallah at noon today.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by Ahmad Faris, director general of the Civil Affairs Ministry; Fakhri al-Dik, director of relations at the Ministry; and Palestinian liaison officer Hasan Abu-Hashish. It was attended on the Israeli side by (Avnir Rok), Civil Administration officer; and other Israeli officers.

The agreement on the transfer of these powers will be initialed on Sunday, and implementation will begin as of Sunday. The transfer of powers will proceed as follows:

—Sunday — nature protection, mining, and employees' affairs;
—Monday — private property income, courts, company registration, and antiquities;
—Tuesday — communications, land registration, and forests.
—Wednesday — environment, housing, planning, mining, surveying, and absentees' property.
—Thursday — public works.

After the conclusion of the transfer and initialing procedures, a date will be set for the official signing of the transfer of these powers by the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

Hamas Issues Statement on Cairo Talks With PA

TA1412182695 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 13 Dec 95 pp 1, 23

[Report by 'Imad al-Ifranji]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza — Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has expressed the hope that the upcoming dialogue with the Palestinian Authority [PA] will be the beginning of a healthy and sound relationship between the two sides based on preserving and protecting the Palestinian people's unity.

A Hamas statement said that it agreed to hold a dialogue with the PA in Cairo at the beginning of next week after receiving an official invitation from Mahmud Karim, the Egyptian ambassador in Gaza, and after President Yasir 'Arafat promised to release Shaykh Sayyid Abu-Musamih.

The statement said that Hamas welcomes the PA's response to the efforts for launching the dialogue. It also welcomes the fraternal Egyptian Government hosting this dialogue.

Hamas thanked fraternal Sudan and Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, who had expressed his eagerness and interest in sponsoring the dialogue. [passage omitted]

Hamas: Cairo Dialogue Not Linked to Elections

JN1412184895 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 14 Dec 95 p 19

[Report by Nadiyah Sa'd al-Din]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ibrahim Ghawshah, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] press spokesman, has said that the meeting that will be held in Cairo on Sunday [17 December] between Hamas and the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] has nothing to do with Hamas' principled refusal to take part in the Palestinian elections. Rather, he said, the meeting is aimed at arriving at a formula of understanding between the two sides to prevent any intra-Palestinian friction and maintain a minimum level of national Palestinian unity.

In a statement to AL-ASWAQ, Ghawshah added that Hamas had earlier announced its boycott of the Palestinian elections. He said this is a final, irrevocable decision, and was made after long consultations and discussions with the Hamas leaders in and outside the homeland. He said this has nothing to do with the dialogue.

He noted that Hamas' position on refusing to take part in the elections is clear. Explaining this position, he said: The elections will be held under the occupation. This is rejected by us. Besides, the elections will be incomplete and will not represent the entire Palestinian people. There are over four million Palestinians abroad. Where is their right to representation? Ghawshah added: The idea of holding a meeting is not new. It was called for by Hasan al-Turabi in June, however, the circumstances then were not ripe. So a new date was set. The Palestinian people will welcome that. The last political meeting between the PNA and Hamas took place in Khartoum two years ago. At this time in particular, a meeting for the two sides to reach an understanding is required.

He said: Hamas will propose an open agenda, covering many issues and priorities, including the political settlement process as a whole, from Madrid to Taba, as well as Hamas' stand on it and how it reflected on the Palestinian cause and people. On the agenda there will also be anti-Israel resistance, which is approved by all civilian and religious laws. We want to agree that the Palestinian people have the right to resist Israel and that resistance must continue. In addition, we will raise the issue of human rights, public freedoms, and democracy in the region. We will call for halting the authority's detentions and repression, and will raise the issue of the release of those detained by the authority. There are over 50 detainees. We will also call for the release of those detained by Israel. Hamas feels that it is being dealt with unfairly and that there is an unspoken agree-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

ment between the authority and the Israeli authorities to keep the Islamists in jails.

He added: The issue is not easy. We cannot speculate as to what extent the meeting will be successful. Some people believe that Hamas will go there for reconciliation. Let us say that we want an understanding with the authority despite the great disparity between the two side's programs. Hamas' program is based on the legitimacy of resisting the occupation, while the authority's program is based on the Oslo agreements. Let us hope that the dialogue between the two sides will be clear and credible and will not mislead the Arab and Islamic world. On the unofficial meeting between nationalist and opposition forces and Palestine National Council members two weeks ago, Ghawshah denied that Hamas took part in the meeting. He said that those who took part in the meeting, such as 'Imad al-Faluji and others, have left Hamas and do not represent it. He said that the Hamas movement's stand is clear and known.

AL-ASWAQ has learned that the Hamas delegation to the dialogue with the PNA in Cairo will comprise Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, Shaykh Muhammad Hasan Jum'ah, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Fattah Dukhkhan, and Shaykh Sayyid Abu-Musamih from Gaza, as well as Shaykh Jamil Hammai, Shaykh Hasan Yusuf, Shaykh Muhammad 'Abd-al-Khaliq al-Natshah, and Shaykh Jamal Mansur from the West Bank.

Before leaving for Cairo, the delegation will hold two-day talks with Hamas leaders 'Imad al-'Alami, Muammad Nazzal, and Khalid Mash'al. The PNA will be represented by Salim al-Za'nun, Furayh Abu-Middayn, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Muhammad Dahlan, and Hani al-Hasan. President Yasir 'Arafat will attend part of the dialogue.

Main Points of Hamas-PA 'Agreement' Detailed

TA1412182795 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew (HAYOM supplement) 14 Dec 95 p 9

[Report by Eli Bohadana]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The official dialogue between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the heads of the Palestinian Authority [PA] will finally open in Cairo on 16 December. Under an Egyptian umbrella, the two parties will try to finalize an agreement on coexistence in the autonomous areas. Six months ago, Hamas and the PA were almost on the verge of civil war, but now, while the Israeli public agonizes over the best way to achieve national unity, the Palestinians in the territories are already closing ranks. This political turnabout will have a decisive effect, not only on Palestinian affairs but on Israel as well.

The draft proposal of the declaration of intentions, which has already been formulated by the parties, includes a key clause in which Hamas promises to halt terrorist attacks against Israeli targets, at least for a limited period. This important clause was a prerequisite for any official dialogue as far as the PA was concerned. Hamas, however, has not tempered its hawkish position and opposition to the peace process with Israel. If in future, the parties reach a final agreement, Hamas will attempt to revoke the Oslo Accords through democratic means. [passage omitted]

The declaration of intentions, of which only parts have so far been published in Israel, actually constitutes the basis for the dialogue starting in Cairo on 16 December.

1. Hamas maintains its position with regard to the agreements signed between the PLO and Israel, and reserves the right to oppose them using democratic means.
2. Both sides commit themselves to pursuing a dialogue as the basis for coexistence, and Hamas will invest efforts to participate in the building of the Palestinian state.
3. Hamas promises not to act against the PA and will strive to improve relations with it. The PA will recognize Hamas as a national movement participating in the national struggle against the Israeli occupier.
4. Both sides will operate within democratic frameworks: political parties will be established; democratic and free elections will be held and Hamas will participate in formulating the election law; all citizens will enjoy freedom of political thought.
5. Security will be the joint responsibility of both parties, with each side fulfilling its allotted task. Palestinian residents will belong to the security system regardless of party affiliation.
6. Both sides affirm their opposition to the use of weapons.
7. In order to improve relations, the PA will make efforts to release all Palestinian prisoners incarcerated in the territories, prosecute those responsible for the massacre in Palestine Square, and compensate the families of the dead and wounded. The media will operate in a free and democratic fashion and the Hamas movement will be granted freedom of action in the religious and educational fields.
8. The parties will find a solution for the problem of Palestinian fugitives from Hamas and other organizations (this clause relates to Israel's policy of pursuing wanted Palestinians).
9. Both sides will fight against collaborators and take steps to confiscate their weapons.
10. If there is an Israeli attack on Palestinians, both sides will decide on a response. If the parties fail to agree,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Hamas promises not to react in a way that contravenes its commitments to the PA (this clarifies the new Hamas position on halting terrorist attacks).

The representatives of both parties will meet to discuss this draft and then sign a comprehensive agreement. Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, told MA'ARIV that "the efforts invested by both parties stem from their desire to prevent a civil war, and we succeeded in doing so. I believe that Hamas joining the Palestinian parliament will strengthen democracy in the Palestinian state." 'Arafat's associates say that if an agreement is reached, the chairman's next goal will be reconciliation with the Islamic Jihad.

Hamas Denies Split Emerged on PA Self-Rule

NC1512111295 Paris AFP in English 0841 GMT 15 Dec 95

[Report by Saad Hattar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Dec 15 (AFP) — The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) denies a split has emerged in its stand toward Palestinian self-rule despite contradictory signals from its members inside the territories and abroad.

But Arab diplomats in Amman, where the Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah is based, said the militant Palestinian group appears to have taken two different approaches to reconciliation efforts with the Palestinian Authority (PA).

While Hamas abroad keeps a hard line, members in the Gaza Strip have been responding to the efforts of Yasir 'Arafat, head of the self-rule authority, to coax Hamas into contesting the first Palestinian general elections.

But so far the group itself has stuck to its refusal to take part in the polls and drop the threat of violence, despite five previous reconciliation bids between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority since 1990.

Eight leaders of the group in the autonomous Gaza Strip traveled to Sudan on Thursday [14 December] to prepare the ground for reconciliation talks with the PA due to take place in Cairo this weekend.

Ghawshah, before also leaving for Khartoum for talks between the membership inside the territories and abroad, still maintains that no date for a dialogue with the PA has been set.

"There is absolutely no discrepancy between Hamas, inside and outside Palestine. The movement has one body and it expresses its stance in a harmonic way," he said.

"I am the spokesman of the group."

Ghawhshah acknowledged, however, that "many stray declarations have been aired in the name of Hamas, but they were found to be those of former Hamas member 'Imad al-Faluji," who was evicted from the movement this week.

"But now we kicked him out. And any member inside has to adhere to the group's code."

Hamas announced Tuesday the dismissal of al-Faluji for "failing to follow instructions." It also said that the weekly AL-WATAN, edited by al-Faluji, would no longer serve as the official Hamas mouthpiece.

Palestinian sources here said al-Faluji had grown so close to 'Arafat that he formed part of the PA delegation for the Middle East economic summit in Amman at the end of October.

'Arafat also named al-Faluji to lead a "national dialogue" with groups like Hamas which reject the autonomy deals with Israel, and the former Hamas member has said he would run as an Islamic independent candidate in the elections.

Ghawshah insists that the PA has failed to "penetrate the ranks of Hamas inside, just as it failed to isolate the group's base in the Gaza Strip from the West Bank."

Although a Muslim fundamentalist party grouping former Hamas members has declared its intention to contest the polls, Ghawshah has distanced Hamas from the Islamic National Salvation Party.

"Any declarations from parties claiming to have ties with Hamas" are invalid and only represent the interests of the PA, he argued. "We tell those party members go to the ballots alone, for they only represent the PA."

Ghawshah reiterated the group's strategy which is to "hold on to every inch of Palestine from the (Mediterranean) sea to the (Jordan) river, and we refuse to acknowledge the Zionist entity.

"If we recognize the PA, then systematically we will have to accept the Zionist state," he said.

Palestinian Youth Shot Dead in Hebron

JN1412145895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A young man identified as Ra'id Muhammad Idris Sarsur from the city of Hebron was shot dead by Israeli occupation soldiers near the holy Ibrahimi mosque in the city this morning. Israeli media sources said the occupation soldiers opened fire on martyr Idris after he stabbed two settlers who sustained moderate wounds.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The occupation troops arrested the four brothers of the martyr after storming the house of the martyr's father located in al-Nimrah area in Hebron.

General Strike in Effect

TA1512093295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A general strike is in effect in Hebron today in mourning of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorist Ra'id Sarsur, who was shot to death yesterday after stabbing two Israelis near the Cave of the Patriarchs. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem claims that according to the assailant's family the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is refusing to hand over Sarsur's body to them.

Alliance Condemns Arrest of Jordan's Shubaylat

JN1312201495 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF] has expressed its strong denunciation and great concern over the arrest of the great patriotic struggler Layth Shubaylat, head of the Jordanian Engineers Association, by the Jordanian regime.

A statement issued by the APF said that this step, which is targeted against a great patriotic symbol, known for his strong adherence to the nationalist, pan-Arab, and Islamic constants, and his rejection of agreements of humiliation and submission, whether the liquidatory Oslo agreement or the submissive Wadi al-'Arabah agreement, clearly exposes the false allegations about eagerness to maintain democracy. At the same time, the arrest exposes the nature of the repressive steps the regime is planning against the press and unions in order to deprive them of any political role and to prevent the strugglers and mujahidin from expressing their opinions concerning the serious dangers facing Palestine, Jordan, and our Arab and Islamic nation as a result of the U.S.-Zionist program. This program aims to fragment our Arab homeland, subjugate our Arab and Islamic nation, plunder its resources and wealth, and control the future of its generations with the consent of a number of capitulative Arab regimes.

While condemning the arrest of the patriotic struggler Layth Shubaylat by the Jordanian regime, the APF urges the dynamic forces in our Arab and Islamic nation to launch the widest solidarity campaign for Shubaylat's release and freedom.

Freedom for great patriotic struggler Layth Shubaylat, and disgrace and shame for the capitulators.

[Signed] The Alliance of Palestinian Forces

Arab-Israeli Talks

Syrian Envoy: Warning Stations Not Only Obstacle

MM1512110295 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 10-16 Dec 95 p 20

[Unattributed report: "Syrian Ambassador Walid al-Mu'allim: Warning Stations Not Only Obstacle"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-MAJALLAH — On the eve of the tour by Dennis Ross, coordinator of the peace process in the region, which took him to Syria and Israel, Syrian Ambassador to Washington Walid al-Mu'allim spoke to AL-MAJALLAH over the telephone about the importance of this tour in the light of recent reports of possible progress on the Syrian-Israeli track.

Ambassador al-Mu'allim, one of the most prominent Syrian officials associated with the negotiations with Israel, stressed that there has been positive talk and a positive atmosphere since Shim'on Peres became prime minister in Israel. However, he said that this positive talk should be coupled with positive action, whose features will become clear after the awaited meeting between Peres and U.S. President Bill Clinton on 11 December. "When words are coupled with actions, optimism becomes an objective matter."

On the obstacles in the course of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, Ambassador al-Mu'allim, who previously held talks in Washington with Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovic, said that the issue of [early-] warning stations in the Golan is not the only obstacles in the way of progress as reported by the press. The ambassador listed three obstacles:

1. Israel's commitment to a full withdrawal to the [4] June 1967 lines. Despite the statements made by Israeli officials about this commitment, it should be raised at the negotiating table so that it can become a credible commitment and a principal foundation for the talks.

2. Syria was surprised by the Israeli insistence on the ground warning station in the Golan, although an agreement had been reached on a paper which was called the "paper on principles and aims of security arrangements." That happened in May during the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Washington, which was followed by a visit by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. These principles included two points: Equality in terms of security arrangements and parity on both sides of the border, in addition to a pledge not to embark on any measures that harms the sovereignty over the territory of either country. Actually the ground station harms Syrian sovereignty, hence we considered it an evasion by Israel of what it had committed itself to — a negative indication that inspires no assurance

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

about any commitment in the future. Especially as we have offered the Israelis more effective alternatives for early warning from space. We no longer see any justification for the insistence on the ground station.

It is worth mentioning here that senior Syrian officials stressed on the eve of Ross' visit to Damascus their refusal to broach the warning stations question during the talks.

3. The necessity for the two parties to comply with the principles agreed upon vis-a-vis security arrangements, since security should be equal for both parties, and so should security arrangements.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algeria

AIS Calls For Intensified 'Guerilla Operations'

LD1412153795 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, Ahmed Benaicha, one of the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Army [AIS], has called for an intensification of guerrilla operations throughout the country. This was reported today by the Arab-language daily AL-HAYAT. The amir [regional group leader] of the AIS in western Algeria urges people to keep away from government buildings and army, police, and militia barracks so as not to fall victim to any attacks. The AIS, I would remind you, is the armed wing of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. Yesterday the overseas executive body of the FIS in Bonn renewed its call for an overall political settlement.

Details of AIS Statement

MM1412172395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Dec 95 pp 1,4

[Report by Salah Jamil: "Salvation Army Calls for Intensification of Anti-Government Operations"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — A statement attributed to the Islamic Salvation Army [AIS], the military wing of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], denied that this armed organization intends to announce a unilateral truce to give elected President Liamine Zeroual more scope and called for operations to be carried outagainst the Algerian Government.

A statement issued by the AIS, dated 11 December and signed by Shaykh Ahmed Ben Aicha, the regional "amir" for the west of Algeria, and of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has received a copy, said that "the real faces of the clique of apostates, who for a second did not relinquish the complex of exercising power, have been exposed to the nation."

The statement, to be published in tomorrow's issue of the "AL-TABSIRAH" bulletin close to the AIS, said: "The attempt to distort truths by winning over the weak and intimidating them with terrorism and the force of metal and fire will not hold for very long in the face of firmness and huge sacrifices."

The statement went on: "In this context the AIS calls on all its fighting battalions to intensify the jihad operations and upgrade them, and calls on all citizens living near government buildings, repression centers of the army, the national guards, and the police, (the movement) militia centers, and all the places, squares, and roads subjected to the intense activity of the clique's agents, to quickly move away from them so that no citizen will be harmed as a result of the operations. It has become necessary to carry out the operations." It should be mentioned that it was the AL-TABSIRAH bulletin which attacked Shaykh Rabah Kebir, chairman of the FIS Executive Council abroad following the open letter he sent to President Liamine Zeroual and in which he implicitly recognized the legitimacy of the elections. It also represents a third tendency within the front abroad calling itself "Keepers of the Pledge" which adopts a position half-way between Kebir's and that of the head of FIS parliamentary delegation, Anouar Haddam.

It has not been possible to check with sources of the FIS Executive Committee abroad the accuracy of this statement, which contradicts to a certain extent the recent statements by some Committee's officials including Kebir. [passage omitted]

TV Employee Dies After Assassination Attempt

LD1412194995 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We have learned today with great regret and sadness that our colleague Abdelkrim Bendaoud, alias Krimo, whose photograph is shown on the screen, has died. He died today after fighting for his life for six days after being shot in an assassination attempt. [passage omitted]

Security Services Eliminate 36 'Criminals'

LD1412173495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services today said that 36 criminals have been eliminated in different search operations carried out by the security forces in the provinces of Algiers, M'Sila, Constantine, Bordj Bou Arreridj, Tiaret, Blida, Chlef, Boumerdes, Tipaza, Relizane, and Bejaia.

According the security services' statement, the security forces succeeded in recovering a quantity of arms and ammunition during these operations.

FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter

MS1512101295 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 12 Dec 95

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by the Islamic Salvation Front "supporters in Europe" — all names and quotation marks as received; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Editorial — The unavoidable role of the Islamic movement!

Praise be to Allah,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Nowadays, the origin of stereotyping the Islamist movement for Western consumption, comes unfortunately from a category of people from the muslim countries. As an illustration, here is a question asked by Mr Q. Suzal, a Journalist from the Turkish daily SABAH during a press conference given by the American ambassador Pelletreau, the assistant secretary of state: "...Lately, most Islamic parties in the Middle East and the Islamic countries are more active than before and, as you know, most of these fundamentalists parties see the United States as a symbol of the Western value and culture and are hostile to the United States...." Turkey is a month away from legislative elections in which the Islamist party is in a good position with respect to its competitors. These "ideological minorities" which seem to have the "ears of the West", try to compensate their "disconnection" from the bulk of the societies by appealing to outsiders for help against their competitors. This help is sought before, during and after the electoral context if the Islamic movement comes to win the elections as it was the case of Algeria these past four years. By magnifying myths contained in their phantasmic stereotyping, they in fact, prepare the "decriminalisation process" of Islamists extermination in case of a peaceful election victory. They portray themselves as victims of "fundamentalism" and blame their "cut off" from their own societies on the "poverty and ignorance of the people" which are "exploited" by "religious parties". For them people turn to Islam and the Islamic solution only as a result of economical depravation and it is in this wrong assumption that most of the answers for "why their disconnection" can be found. They are as the "crow" who tried to learn the "pigeon"'s steps and ended up forgetting its own steps without having learned the pigeon's. When societies are given full freedom to choose their political representative, it usually choses those who represent its aspirations for the time being, not yesterday's, not tomorrow's and more probably not those of "either side".

In Egypt, the Mubarak's regime did not stop at giving itself the right of applying a policy of political exclusion toward the Islamic movement and the Islamic solution, it went even further to stop Islamists running for office even under an independent or another "legal" party's label. The Pharaoh of Egypt went as far as "spitting" on the Egyptian people free choice by perpetrating a massive forgery of the legislative elections. So elections for those kind of regimes have become a way of war against their political opponents. These regime seem to say to the West, the provider of loans: "you want elections, here they are, see for yourselves through these official results how popular we are!" and if the opposition losses its hope for a peaceful change and can no longer control its base then it become a mere "problem of terrorism" which the West should have the "duty" to help these "popular regimes" to fight it.

In Algeria, the "ideological minority" has given "its best" in fighting the Islamists who have won the legislative elections, in the information front by "turning off all lights" on the mass murders, tortures, deportation to the concentration camps... Today this "minority" seems to be in trouble with the regime because it is sensing rightly or wrongly that the wind may be about to change and those who have been its "protectors" these past four years may become its "hangmen" shortly. One thing is for sure is that this "ideological minority" may find some Algerian people who will defend their rights to live decently on a strictly humanitarian basis but it will never find anybody who will fight for it to "have the right to speak" as it has in all these past years, devilishly travesties the voice of the Algerian people in general and that of the Islamists in particular when it has not denied them access all together. History in its cyclic progression, will recall these people criminal silence on the Human rights violations which the Algerian people in general have been victim of as well as their resourceful energy in trying to convince through propaganda, the international media that in Algeria there is only "one bad guy": the Islamist who has won the elections. "If a wound had touched you, be sure a similar wound had touched the others. Such days (of varying fortunes) we give to men and men by turns: that Allah may Know those that believe, and that He may take to Himself from your ranks Martyr-witnesses (to truth). And Allah Love not those that do wrong." (Koran surat Ali-Imran, 3:140, translation by Yusuf Ali).

The Algerian "independent and private" press: speaking with one voice!

The news: The Algerian authorities have decided to shut the "independent and private" (i,e anti-Islamic) newspaper "LIBERTE" for two weeks on the charges of "repeated tendentious information". The Editor and the director-general of the newspaper have been arrested as they were about to board a plane to France. The other newspapers of the same "independent and private" type have shown solidarity with "LIBERTE" and started to talk by way of suggestion about Human rights in Algeria. This in itself is a big news for newspapers who did not find any violation of human rights in Algeria these past four years. May be for them an Islamist or anyone looking like one can not be introduced in the statistics of human rights abuses. Whereas before they use to talk the same kind of language but with some nuances, in this occasion they decided to talk with one voice and one tone.

It may be that "something seriously fishy going on!"

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In interview of a member of the executive committee of the FIS!

Brother Abdellah Anas, member of the executive committee overseas has given an interview to the London based newspaper "EL HAYAT" which was published on Saturday the 09/12/95. Following as some extracts:

Question: Is it possible to clarify the existing clamour within the FIS circles about the letter send by shaykh Rabah Kebir to president Zeroual?

Answer: The letter was not Shaykh Rabah Kebir's letter nor was it the executive committee's. The letter was signed by Shaykh Rabah Kebir based on orientations that came from Algeria. And this means that the executive committee of the FIS overseas is not the one which took the initiative of the letter. The letter came from Algeria and Rabah Kebir had only to sign it based on directives that came from there. In the letter there are two sections: the dialogue (with the regime) and the timing (of the letter). As for the dialogue, the letter is not new in that aspect since this subject has been already presented by the Shuyukh (jailed FIS leaders) at the head of whom is Abbassi Madani. Thus the problem of talks with the regime has been exposed before this letter. The thing that was difficult to assimilated is the timing of the letter in this stage.

Question: There was not only disagreement on the timing...some critics talked about the method by which president Zeroual was addressed which has suggested that the FIS has recognised the elections results despite its opposition to the elections themselves?

Answer: Yes indeed, it is this point which has triggered the misunderstanding amongst some parties. We have even been asked how come the tone of the FIS has so much changed in twenty four hours.

Question: What is the FIS position concerning the legislative elections particularly after that Shaykh Abdellah Djaballah (leader of the al-Nahdah party) said that the opposition will take part in those elections?

Answer: This will be determined by the coming stage and whether or not there will be political releases. But it is very early to talk about this question. The situation is still the same. Zeroual is still talking about finishing the "terrorism" and he means what he means by this talk.

Question: What does he mean by terrorism?

Answer: The armed groups. The eradicator vocabulary is still existing. Therefore we can not specify what our position will be for the next stage under these kind of conditions.

Question: Can you tell us what is the exact FIS position vis a vis the GIA? [Armed Islamic Group]

Answer: It is the same position as the GIA position vis a vis the FIS!

Question: Do you consider that the GIA responsible for the killing of Shaykh Abdelbaki Sahraoui particularly after having declared "his blood licit", him and some other FIS leaders?

Answer: We do not know precisely who "pulled the trigger" in Shaykh Sahraoui murder. But we consider the GIA responsible for his killing based on the communique which it issued. The murder has follow the communique. So the responsibility is pending on the GIA. However what is surprising in relation of the origin of the communique is that it also threaten Anouar Haddam. How can Shaykh Mohamed Said agree on that and he is (..) one of the GIA leaders. How can he agree on the murder of Anouar Haddam who has left the country on his orders? And how can Shaykh Said Makhloufi who is considered now as from the GIA, agreed on the murder of Kamar Eddine Karban who have left Algeria under the directives of Said Makhloufi to cover activities overseas?

Question: And if the communique was not authentic why Shaykh Mohamed Said and Shaykh Said Makhloufi did not denounce it?

Answer: It is that which is intriguing. Will it be logical that Said Makhloufi gives Kamar Eddine a death sentence? Will it also be logical that Mohamed Said gives a death sentence to Haddam?

News of jihad and Mujahedeen

After the "political immobilism" which describes best the Algerian situation following the elections of the 16/11/95 out of which the regime has not shown any genuine will to change its methods of dealing with the situation nor its real intentions of changing it at all. The weapons went on "talking" again in the absence of any other mode of "talking".

According to western intelligence and reported by the news agency "COMPASS" newswire of the 05/12/95: "eleven paramilitary gendarmes were killed in an ambush set up by Islamist elements in the Tlemcen region, near the border with Morocco, in the past few days. The same sources also confirmed that an army convoy was ambushed over the weekend near Bouira, 38 miles south of the capital. The sources said around 30 soldiers had been killed in the clash. Other sources on Monday had put the death toll at 60 to 70." [end of quotation]. In this kind of atmosphere, the Algerian people are starting to loose hope for the regime to come up with imaginative political initiative now that the FIS and the opposition have put it in front of its

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

responsibilities. The Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) has ended its expectative period and issued a communique dated on the 11/12/95 and which translation follows:

Islamic Salvation Front (FIS)
Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) 11 December 1995
Communique
It has become apparent to the nation the real nature of the Junta which has not escaped from its complex of usurpation of power.

And if the Islamic Salvation Army and its leadership have stated their positions from the beginning it is because they have been and still are well aware of the situation.

The attempt in altering the realities by attracting the powerless and subjugating them by terror and the policy of "Iron and fire", will not last for ever before it is uncovered in front of the determination and sacrifices. Therefore the standing up to in front of those wrongdoers "teeth for teeth" no matter the sacrifices, has become a licit obligation on the "shoulders" of all those who are concern about this religion and the future of this nation which has stated time and again its faithfulness and the healthy choice of its path.

The call for the right and the wisdom which we talk with to the majority of the muslim Algerian people will not give the wrongdoer and the hand of tyranny, a round (of the battle) no matter how long it may take.

In this context, the Islamic Salvation Army calls on all its unites to intensify and to improve their military operations. The AIS also calls on all the Algerians who are still living near the government constructions, centres of oppression of the army, the gendarmery, the police and the centres of armed militia (harka) and all the places and routes with heavy movements of the Junta collaborators, to distance themselves from those places. So that no civilian may get hurt during military operations, the implementation of these recommendations has become a necessity.

The Commander of the Western regions
Shaykh Ahmed Benaicha.

The Egyptian electoral farce!

Following are two news reports on the Egyptian elections from a "non-Islamist" sources: REUTER (07/12/95) — The Egyptian ruling party won an overwhelming parliamentary majority in violent and dirty elections in which thugs roamed the countryside armed with sticks, clubs and firearms and at least 28 people were killed.

Interior Minister Hassan el-Alfi said on Thursday the ruling NDP of President Hosni Mubarak won 317 of the 444 seats at stake in the two rounds of voting. Independents, including many expelled from the NDP for insisting on standing AGAINST party nominees, won 114 seats.

Opposition parties, which won 13 seats between them, continued to complain that the police, NDP supporters and the local authorities connived to rig the voting on Wednesday.

Independent monitoring groups came to the same conclusion and the country's main human rights group, the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights, asked Mubarak to cancel them.

Alfi said the turnout was 49.73 percent in the second round of voting, for seats where members did not win more than 50 percent of the votes the previous Wednesday.

The liberal Wafd Party picked up six, the leftist Tagammu party five, the pro-Islamist Ahrar Party one and the pan-Arabist Nasserite Party one.

Political sources said the independents include at least one member of the Moslem Brotherhood.

Monitoring groups said the authorities specifically targeted the Islamist movement. The main tactic was the mass arrest of the election agents who would have monitored voting for Labour Party and Brotherhood candidates.

Another tactic was to close polling stations for long periods, apparently to stuff the ballot boxes with NDP votes, opposition candidates said. AP (10/12/95) — The government celebrated its crushing victory in Egypt's parliamentary elections as an "exercise in democracy." The talk at Friends Cafe in the Boulaq slum was not so enthusiastic.

"My voice didn't go in the ballot box," said Imad Abdullah who supported a candidate advocating "strict" Islamic law. Abdullah and his friends recounted over and over the fraud they said they saw during the voting last week. Boxes filled with votes for Islamic activists were snatched from polling stations, replaced with empty ballot boxes or ones stuffed with votes for the government-backed candidates, they said. Candidates' supporters paid $30 apiece for votes, they said. "The president says there's democracy, but there's democracy to the extent he wants it," said Medhat el-Dessouk.

Even more surprising than the government's margin of victory were the scenes of violence across the country as rival gangs clashed with guns, sticks and knives. At least 34 people were killed, dozens were wounded and hundreds were arrested.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

A day after the vote, opponents of a government candidate went on a rampage in the Nile delta, burning 22 cars and buses, stoning six government buildings and setting a fire at a railway station.

Some suggested the violence was a manifestation of seething frustration across the political spectrum — from the men in Boulaq to the legions of Islamic activists to the small opposition parties. With the opposition holding 3 percent of the seats in parliament, Egypt effectively has no formal opposition.

Some Egyptians are comparing this period to the dark, tense weeks before President Anwar Sadat was assassinated in October 1981.

Mubarak's hit-squads reaches out to London!

According to the British newspaper the "INDEPENDENT" and quoting a "reliable military source in Cairo". Egypt has sent up to 100 men from the state security service to London to start a Europe-wide manhunt for dozens of Islamists. The source said that "the agents begun to arrive in London in November as part of an operation to track down and kill the Egyptian regime's enemies abroad.". A number of the agents are believed to be armed, one Egyptian source described them as "hit squads" and according to the "INDEPENDENT", "their presence in Britain is likely to cause the government (British) deep concern.".

On the other hand the Algerian foreign Minister Dembri have very recently emphasised the "very close cooperation" between the Egyptian and Algerian regime in their common fight against what they call "terrorism". Does this "cooperation" stop at "legal barriers" or not is the real question?

Egypt

UN Decision on Nuclear Issue Called 'Triumph'

NC1512091895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0603 GMT 15 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA) — AL-JUMHURIYAH has asserted that the UN General Assembly's decision to adopt an Egyptian draft resolution calling on all parties in the Middle East to implement urgent measures to establish a nuclear-free zone and join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty is regarded as an important victory for Egyptian diplomacy.

In its editorial today, the paper attributes the triumph of Egyptian diplomacy to Egypt's adherence to its mission, respect for its principles, and concern for the international community's stability.

It adds that this decision keeps the nuclear file of the region's countries open until the desired solution is reached. The decision also removes one of the barriers of fear and threat, it goes on. The paper says the measure comes after Egypt proved to the world that security cannot be achieved by occupation and expansion, but by respecting the legitimate rights of the region's nations in line with international legitimacy.

Speaker Denies U.S. Request To Investigate 'Excesses'

NC1512072795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2235 GMT 15 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA) — Dr. Fathi Surur, the speaker of the new People's Assembly "parliament," has categorically denied that the United States requested an investigation into reports of excesses during the recent parliamentary elections. He said: This is not true, reasonable, or logical, and absolutely not in line with the principle of the independence and sovereignty of nations.

Dr. Surur said he was astonished that people should say such things, stressing that they do not know that by saying this they offend their country's independence and sovereignty over its territory. He made his statement to AL-AHRAM in an interview to be published on Friday [15 December]. He said: We do not expect any party that loses in the elections to praise the majority party. We are accustomed to seeing a victorious party assailed and accused in a bid to detract from the election result.

Mubarak Praises Relations With Saudi Arabia

LD1312163095 Riyadh SPA in English
1248 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, Dec 13, SPA — Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has praised the depth of distinguished relations between Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

During a meeting with the parliamentary body of the National Democratic Party (NDP), President Mubarak dismissed as baseless the reports claiming that there was ever a thaw in relations between the kingdom and Egypt at any period.

He urged the mass media to be more careful when reporting about inter-Arab relations, adding that it was not sensible to call for clearing the air and forging Arab solidarity, while at the same time 'we exaggerate and magnify individual incidents which might harm the relations between the sisterly Arab states.'

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Musa: 'Expectations Good' for Bosnia Agreement

NC1512070395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2212 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo from Paris tonight after visiting France, where he attended the Bosnian peace agreement signing earlier today.

He said upon arrival that expectations are good regarding the Bosnian agreement. "That was the beginning; any problems will be solved," he added.

He said the states of the Islamic Contact Group will coordinate to boost peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina and participate in supervising the peace process.

He said he met French President Jacques Chirac, U.S. President Bill Clinton, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic on the sidelines of the ceremony.

Mustafa Amin Mocks Election Results, NDP Democracy

NC1212131795 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 9 Dec 95 p 24

[Report by Mustafa Amin; from the "Idea" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Council has canceled the results of the vote in half of Egypt's constituencies. This is a historic decision that must be respected. It cannot be ignored, and it calls for new elections.

But I do not think that our grand government will respect the ruling of the State Council. It will argue that the People's Assembly is the master of itself, and some will call for abolishing the State Council because it interfered in a matter that does not concern it, and so must hear what displeases it. The National Democratic Party [NDP] has won 417 seats, the Wafd Party six seats, the National Progressive Unionist Grouping five seats, the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party one seat, and the Liberal Party one seat. No democratic party in the world has ever won such a majority, not even Hitler or Mussolini. This result means the launching of a one-party system, the fall of democracy, and the beginning of a new age in which the parliament is turned into an NDP subcommittee.

It has been noted that most of those who could speak lost the elections: those who opened their mouths in previous parliaments, those who presented embarrassing questions, and those who filed hot interpellations. This means that the people "do not want to be disturbed." They want a polite, obedient, and well-mannered parliament, one that is helpless, that applauds without speaking, that supports without opposing, and that gives a big salute to the government for anything it does. This, undoubtedly, is a model parliament that will serve as an ideal for the parliaments of the Third World, some leaders of which view parliaments as futile noisemakers that only cause headaches.

And there remains one important issue: More than 100 independents could not maintain their independence for 24 hours. They rushed to join the NDP on the day of their victory. In respectable parliaments, if a deputy changes his political color after his election, he is duty bound to resign from the parliament and run in new elections with his new political color. If the voters approve of this change, he remains in his seat, and if the majority refuses this change, he gets out of parliament.

I do not think that the majority of the 100 deputies who hastened to join the NDP will accept this parliamentary rule because it restricts their freedom to move from one party to another, and from one camp to another — a movement they find pleasurable!

I hope the people will remain the leaders of the opposition.

Arrested 'Terrorists' Confess Assassination Plans

NC1412164495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA) — Counselor Hisham Saraya, public prosecutor at the Higher State Security Prosecution Office, today ordered the detention of the arrested members of the bloodthirsty al-Jihad Organization for 15 days pending completion of the investigations being undertaken with the knowledge of the Prosecution Office.

The security services announced yesterday the arrest of these terrorists who were plotting suicide attacks on some establishments and public figures.

The defendants in this case will face a number of charges, including joining a group established in violation of the law and Constitution that intends to forcefully change the regime; membership in an illegal party; possession of weapons, explosives, and ammunition without license with the intent to use them in activities that undermine public order and safety and threaten security and social peace; and criminal collaboration and scheming to perpetrate a number of premeditated killings.

The terrorists confessed to the Prosecution Office that they received instructions and funds from a number of leading terrorist elements in Britain and Sudan to undermine Egypt's security and stability and to

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

assassinate a number of political, security, media, press, arts, and cultural figures. The terrorists added that they also planned to blow up a number of important facilities and sites of mass gatherings in order to create a new wave of terror and panic among the masses.

The Prosecution Office decided to retain all weapons and explosives uncovered with the terrorists. The weapons and explosives would be sent to the criminal laboratory in order to prepare the necessary report. It also decided to retain all written documents and funds found with them.

Officials from the Prosecution Office also inspected the various lairs where the defendants hid.

Columnist Resents 'Elimination' of Copts in Elections

NC1212194595 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Dec 95 p 7

[Article by Ramzi Zaqlamah: "The Defect of the Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. President, I wish you had not given that interview, "Hadith al-Madinah" on Tuesday [5 December], which lured us into the fantasy of truthfulness while we suffered from the bitter reality. I am afraid that what happened the next day exposed the regime's defect which had been veiled by deceit.

What did the Copts commit to deserve the elimination of their names from the list of candidates for the mid-term elections of the Consultative Council and later the People's Assembly, as though none of them deserved that honor? This conduct harmed Egypt before it harmed the Copts, who were overwhelmed with anger and frustration, and I do not say rigidness and challenge. They have their excuse for that; the names of living Copts were eliminated from voters registers and replaced with those of dead people.

This freeze or disregard should have been avoided through all possible means so that rumors would not link this injustice to calculations involving balances. The Wafd Party did not raise the banner of national unity out of a vacuum; it did that out of a patriot sentiment drawn from the great experience of the revolution of 1919 and from a thorough reading of what happened in Lebanon. This disregard for Copts must be reciprocated, which is bound to divide the ranks and spread a feeling of bitterness and estrangement on the soil of the homeland.

The Copts have repeatedly reiterated their refusal to be appointed among the 10 members the president appoints at the People's Assembly. They even view the persons who accept that appointment as accomplices who conspire against the Copts' rights. They will ignore them completely because such a person would be a Judas, who sold Christ for 30 weights of silver. I am afraid that no Copt will agree to be that Judas.

I need not repeat what was said earlier about the distinctiveness of the relation between Egypt's Muslims and Copts. I need not repeat the Koranic verse that says "Strongest among men in enmity to believers wilt thou find the Jews and pagans; and nearest among them in love to the believers wilt thou find those who say: we are Christians. Because amongst these are men devoted to learning and men who have renounced the world, and they are not arrogant." (Sura 5 al-Ma'idah, verse 85). It is no longer a matter of winning sympathy; it is a matter of duties and rights.

I appeal to my conscious Muslim brothers who believe in national unity to stand up with us as one man against this hateful current. After all, when we pray, we pray to the one God we all worship, both Muslims and Copts. "God is one;" "your God and ours are one and the same" [Koranic verses]. It is that same God about whom the Bible says "you shall kneel only to your Lord God and worship Him alone" and the opening words of the Creed says "we believe in one God."

Is it not time for us to live in peace and amity on the land of Egypt?

[After note] When this article was submitted at 12 o'clock on 7 December, not a single Copt had succeeded. May God help you Egypt and my condolences to the Copts of Egypt.

New Weekly Magazine Appears on Stands

NC1312141395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA) — A new Egyptian weekly magazine appeared on the stands today. Called AL-DUSTUR [Constitution], its board chairman is 'Isam Isma'il Fahmi and its chief editor is Ibrahim 'Isa, who also works as an editor for ROSE AL-YUSUf. Ahmad al-Khawajah, dean of the Lawyers Association and chairman of the Arab Lawyers Union, is an adviser to the chief editor.

The magazine says it is issued with Egyptian funds, does not belong to any party, and is against capitalist control. It is also against terrorism in all its armed and ideological forms. It believes in political and economic pluralism and calls for dialogue and enlightenment.

AFP Correction to Rights Group Reports 51 Killed

NC1112150495

AFP supplys the following correction to the item headlined "Rights Group Reports 51 Killed in Election

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Violence," published in the 11 December Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 18:

Column one, first paragraph, only sentence, make read: ...51 people were killed and 878 injured, during Egyptian parliamentary...(adding words "878 injured" and deleting "28 of them by police")

Paragraph three, only sentence, make read: ...at 51 along with 878 injured, many as police...(changing "300 injured" to "878 injured")

Paragraph four, first sentence, make read: At least 28 of the injured were police," the report added...(adding "of the injured were" and deleting "(were killed) by")

Libya

UK Decision To Expel Envoy Criticized

MM1412125095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Dec 95 p 6

[Report by Ashraf al-Fiqqi: "Libya Criticizes Britain's Decision To Expel One of Its diplomats"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — Libya has again criticized Britain's decision to expel Khalifah Bazilya, head of its interests section in London, and described the decision as "hasty and unfounded." A Libyan diplomatic source in Cairo said that his country's decision to expel David Hawkes, head of the British interests section, comes as a retaliation and follows the principle of reciprocal treatment.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH, the source added that Britain's announcement to keep its options open in response to the Libyan decision "sounds like a threat, and is rejected."

He added: "If Libya has some interest in a rapprochement with Britain, the latter too has interests in Libya, including trade exchanges in the region of 1 billion pounds sterling, in favor of the British."

He admitted that there is a "crisis" currently in relations with Britain.

He said: "It seems that, having obtained the security information concerning the IRA, the British now want to confirm to the United States that their position on the Lockerbie crisis has not changed."

Sudan

Al-Turabi on Islamic Revolution in Sudan, Iran

LD1412180595 Tehran IRNA in English 1619 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Dec. 14, IRNA — Secretary General of the Arab-Islamic congress, Hasan al-Turabi, told IRNA here Thursday [14 December] that the present awakening of the world of Islam means revival of Islam. Al-Turabi expressed hope that in the early 21st century Islamic movement will be integrated and Islamic community will recapture its lost power and glory, with Islam playing its true role.

Praising the Islamic revolution in Iran and its accomplishments, al-Turabi said Iran and Sudan are at present regarded as the united base of Islam. "This is threatening to the enemies of Islam, and they work to crush these two countries," the secretary general of the Arab-Islamic congress pointed out. Al-Turabi underlined the common points between the two countries and said Sudan is fully prepared to strengthen cultural and political relations with Iran.

Commenting on the western accusation alleging that Iran and Sudan are supporters of terrorism, al-Turabi said the westerners have always been scared of the power of Islam and in a bid to tarnish the image of Islam, they label enormous power of Islam as terrorism.

Al-Turabi lashed out at the trend of the so-called Middle East peace talks and underlined the necessity of settling the Afghanistan crisis, which he said is fanned by foreign hands.

Garang Appeals For Help To Establish Radio Station

EA1512103095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 1- Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quoting informed sources, the SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY has reported that rebel John Garang has sent a message to an African leader begging him for support. In his message, Garang says his forces are suffering successive defeats, and claims that while the ruling regime in Sudan, as he puts it, is receiving support from Arabs and Muslims, his movement is only getting limited support. In his message, he said he is urgently in need of support to enable him to establish a radio station of his own. He admitted that the splits within the rebel movement are throwing it off balance. It is worth mentioning that rebel Garang has in the past accused his representative to southern Africa [as heard] of exploiting the name of the movement for personal gains.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Tunisia

U.S. Official Robert Pelletreau Pays Visit

Meets With President Ben Ali

LD1412161795 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at Carthage this morning received Robert Pelletreau Jr., U.S. assistant secretary of state in charge of Middle East, who stated that his meeting with the president was "very beneficial and fruitful" and enabled them to discuss a number of issues, particularly bilateral relations, the developments in the region, and the Middle East peace process, pointing to the mutual understanding between the two countries and describing Tunisian-U.S. relations as "excellent and based on common interests and mutual respect." In this respect he said "we continuously work to consolidate bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in all fields."

The foreign minister and the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia attended the meeting.

Meets With Investment Minister

LD1412180095 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mohamed Ghannouchi, minister of international cooperation and foreign investment, has met at the ministry's headquarters Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state in charge of Middle East affairs, with the attendance of U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia Mary Ann Casey.

The minister presented a review of the economic situation in Tunisia, which has been increasingly active and growing for the last few years due to the many reforms introduced to all the sectors. These have helped to consolidate Tunisia's radiance [as heard] and credibility.

Mohamed Ghannouchi pointed out that the new reform period focuses on a number of goals and options, such as improving the competitiveness of Tunisian products against foreign competition, rehabilitating enterprises, speeding up privatization, consolidating the banking sector, improving the infrastructure, strengthening the social balance, and adapting vocational training to the needs of enterprises. He said Tunisia relies on its own resources and the support of friendly countries, including the United States, to make its program a success and ease its integration into the world economy.

Regarding foreign investment, Mohamed Ghannouchi said that since the signing of the partnership agreement with the European Union, growing interest has emerged among foreign investors toward Tunisia. He stressed the need to intensify the information campaigns on the economic situation in Tunisia and promote investment and partnership incentives among U.S. businessmen.

For his part Robert Pelletreau expressed his satisfaction at the friendly and cooperative relations existing between Tunisia and the United States, which have shown increasing development. He expressed his admiration at the achievements gained in Tunisia in all fields. He also expressed appreciation for the wise policy followed by Tunisia and its positive role pursued in the region in order to turn it into a haven of peace and stability.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Oman

Foreign Minister Talks With Iranian Ambassador

LD1412204195 Tehran IRNA in English
2025 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec. 14, IRNA — In a meeting today in Muscat between the Iranian ambassador, Siyavash Zargar-Yaqubi, and the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, the two sides discussed Tehran-Muscat mutual cooperation as well as regional and international important issues. The Iranian and Omani officials also reviewed latest developments in the region, the two countries' commonalities and futher expansion of relations and cooperation between Tehran and Muscat.

Qatar

Foreign Minister Meets With Iranian Ambassador

LD1412204995 Tehran IRNA in English
2016 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec. 14, IRNA — In a meeting in Doha today, Iranian ambassador to Qatar, Seyyed Baqer Safa'i, and the Qatari foreign minister, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, discussed the two countries' mutual relations and strengthening of cooperation. The two sides also reviewed important current issues of the Persian Gulf as well as setting up of the forthcoming Tehran-Doha joint economic commission.

Meanwhile, in another meeting with the Qatari first deputy minister of information and culture, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Thamir Al Thani, the Iranian ambassador also exchanged views on the subject of mutual cooperation, particularly setting up of the Iranian cultural week in Doha.

Government Signs Protocol on Joining WTO

JN1412193295 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1400 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Geneva, 14 Dec (WAKH)— Qatar this morning signed a protocol pertaining to joining the World Trade Organization [WTO].

Qatar will become a founding member of the WTO one month from the date of signature. The WTO will issue a statement in this regard at that time.

In the first half of this year, Qatar concluded negotiations with the major states in the WTO on joining this organization. In [words indistinct], the WTO General Assembly endorsed Qatar's membership in this organization.

United Arab Emirates

Iranian Presidential Adviser Alviri Visits Dubayy

LD1412230295 Tehran IRNA in English
2248 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec. 14, IRNA — Iranian president's advisor and head of the supreme commission of Iran's free trade zones, Morteza Alviri, is currently in Dubayy heading a delegation for the 6th trade fair of Jabal-'Ali free trade zone in Dubayy.

Today, Alviri had a meeting with Dubayy's deputy of the chamber of commerce and industries, Hasan Muhammad Bin-al-Shaykh and the two sides exchanged views on the promotion of cooperation between Iranian Qeshm and Kish (ftz)s and Dubayy's Jabal-'Ali free trade zone. The Iranian official said that Dubayy could use both Qeshm and Kish free trade zones as a bridge to expand its trade relations with the Central Asian republics.

Welcoming the proposal made by Alviri, al-Shaykh said that Dubayy had inked an agreement with Iranian unions of chambers of commerce and the Ministry of Industries and Mines over three years. Al-Shaykh also called upon the joint committee to came up with solutions in promoting trade cooperation between the two countries.

Earlier, on Wednesday Alviri also met and discussed with the head and director of the Dubayy's shipping and ports organization and Jabal-'Ali free trade zone, Sultan Bin-Salim.

Dubayy's exports to Iran fetched the emirate dlrs 1.1 billion last year and dlrs 610 millions during the past eight months of the current year.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

UN Delegate Criticizes Human Rights Official

JN1412152195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The United Nations/New York, 14 Dec (INA)—Dr. Muhammad al-Duri, Iraqi delegate to meetings of the Third Committee emanating from the current UN General Assembly, has described Max van der Stoel, the so-called special rapporteur to the UN Human Rights Commission, as a political tool used by parties known for their hostility toward Iraq.

Al-Duri, who is also the dean of the Faculty of Law at Baghdad University, added that Max van der Stoel has espoused permanent hostility toward Iraq as a course of action, because he is a political tool used by parties that aim to partition Iraq, and also because he is lacking in integrity and objectivity.

Al-Duri went on to say: All of Max van der Stoel's fabrications against Iraq are ridiculous. They are merely a crude repetition of the preconceived positions of parties known for their ill will, and also for their efforts to taint the image of Iraq.

In remarks made before the Third Committee, which examines human rights issues, Dr. al-Duri said: The false fabrications and accusations enshrined in a draft resolution submitted to the committee strongly conflict with the official reports of UN agencies, such as UNICEF, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and the International Committee of the Red Cross—the agencies that constantly visit Iraq and make tours throughout the country.

The Iraqi delegate pointed out that these international agencies bear witness to the success of the ration card system used to distribute food supplies among the residents of Iraq. Meanwhile, Max van der Stoel and the parties that stand behind him are berating this system.

When the anti-Iraq draft resolution was put to the vote by the Third Committee, 49 countries abstained and four countries voted against. These countries were Sudan, Libya, Gambia, and Nigeria.

From among the Arab countries that abstained were the following: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, and Tunisia.

From among the countries that supported the draft resolution were the Zionist entity, Kuwait, Iran, and Saudi Arabia. The representatives of other countries were absent when the draft resolution was put to the vote.

Exiles Form Human Rights Association

MM1412151895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Dec 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Exiles Form Human Rights Association"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — 150 Iraqi exiles including intellectuals, academics, politicians, lawyers, businessmen, and specialized professionals, have announced the formation of the "Iraqi Human Rights Association." Sources among its founding members said that it intends to hold its first congress next year. The statement announcing the association's formation, of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT received a copy yesterday, reiterated the reasons for these figures to form the associations as being "the Iraqi person's enduring plight as a result of the government's oppression and terrorism and the policy of coercion and demoralization of the individual, the disdain for and violation of his natural and acquired rights, the suppression of freedom of expression and thought, and the persecution of citizens because of their political, national, sectarian, or religious affiliations, a policy which has set an example for the whole world...whereby Iraq under the current regime is at the forefront of states violating their citizens' rights and human rights in neighboring states."

The statement urged "all Iraqis concerned and involved in liberating the Iraqi person" to support the association "in order to reinforce its role in our public life so that it achieves a fitting status as an authority entrusted with the defense of human rights, opposing the policy of oppression and terrorism from whatever source."

The list of the statement's signatories includes Iraqi figures residing in 17 Arab and foreign countries, in addition to Kurdish figures from Iraqi Kurdistan, which is not under the Iraqi government's control, among them former ministers and ambassadors, as well as writers, artists, lawyers, university professors, economists, businessmen, retired military personnel, and clerics.

Meanwhile, a group of Iraqi intellectuals and politicians have called for a "credible government approach" toward Security Council resolutions concerning Iraq and "a democratic opening toward the people and their national forces" as a way to end the international economic sanctions imposed on Iraq since it invaded Kuwait in 1990 and "to confront the proposal for sectarian and racial fragmentation."

A statement, a copy of which was received by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, said that this group held a conference in the French capital Paris on 9-10

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

December and discussed "the disastrous effects of the continuation of the unjust blockade on Iraq," adding: "The (Iraqi) regime's comprehensive and repressive approach is one of the factors which led to the involvement in the Kuwait invasion and the inability of the regime to deal with its consequences."

It added: "Serious work to lift the blockade requires a credible policy by the government in its dealings with Security Council resolutions and a democratic opening toward the people and their national forces" and stressed that "a balanced popular participation means free representative institutions and requires democratic activities to uphold the rule of law, respect for human rights, and the peaceful exercise of power.... These democratic institutions are our way to reinforce national unity in order to confront the plans for sectarian and racial fragmentation now proposed." In conclusion, the statement stressed that "the participation of Arabs and Kurds in the single Iraqi homeland, with guarantees of national rights for the Kurds, is a basic condition for Iraq's steadfastness and its democratic progress." Dr. Ghassan al-'Atiyah, former director of the center for Palestinian studies at Baghdad University, and 'Aziz al-Hajj, former Iraqi representative at UNESCO, were among the conference attendees.

'Aziz Meets South Korean, Italian UN Delegates

JN1312214195 Baghdad INA in Arabic
2110 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 13 Dec (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz held a second round of talks with two UN delegates in New York today.

Tariq 'Aziz met with Park Sojel [name as transliterated], South Korean permanent representative to the United Nations. South Korea will become a nonpermanent member of the Security Council on 1 January 1996.

The deputy prime minister also met with Italian Ambassador at the Security Council Francisco Paolovolshi [name as transliterated].

During the two meetings, 'Aziz reviewed developments in the relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council against the backdrop of Iraq's commitment to and compliance with the resolutions passed by the world body. The talks also addressed the means to push for an expedited effort to revoke the Iraq sanctions.

Fuel Shortage Protested in al-Sulaymaniyah

JN1312162795 Baghdad INA in English
1105 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karkuk, Dec 13, INA — Al-Sulaymaniyah northern Province witnessed on Tuesday [12 December] a demonstration calling for supplying fuels.

Travelers from al-Sulaymaniayh said that the demonstrators demanded a solution to fuel deficiency in within 3 days for the growing suffering due to cold weather. The city has witnessed as well armed engagements during the last days by attacking Ginao village, plundering the houses as well as destroying them.

Head of French Interests Section Visits Marshlands

JN1412195095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1835 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Basrah, 14 Dec (INA)—Jean-Francois Nodinot, head of the French interests section in Iraq, has visited the al-Basrah Governorate and acquainted himself with the effects of the continued criminal embargo.

During a meeting with Nodinot, al-Basrah Governor Latif Mahal Humud presented the French official with a detailed explanation of the suffering of the governorate's residents due to food and medicine shortages, and also due to the closure of most production facilities as a result of the scarcity of raw materials. Humud also told the French official that the plantation of palm trees has also suffered, and that it is impossible to promote agriculture under the sanctions regime.

The French official was also acquainted with the kind of life led by the residents of the marshlands, and also with the noble care accorded to them by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to promote their social and cultural environment through granting them agricultural land, launching irrigation projects to their advantage, granting their villages access to electrical power, and building schools for them.

U.S. 'Violation' of Airspace Protested to UN

JN1412100695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1215 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 13 Dec (INA)—Iraq once again protested to the United Nations the continued violation of its airspace by U.S. aircraft for purposes of surveillance and provocation.

In a letter of protest to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali today, Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, said that U.S. aircraft carried out extensive air sorties over the northern and southern regions in Iraq, after which they flew toward Kuwait. He stressed that these sorties violate Iraq's sovereignty.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Hamdun requested that the letter, which included a detailed list of the cities over which these aircraft flew, be adopted as a UN Security Council document.

Referendum, Democracy, U.S. Intentions Viewed

96LH0031A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 9, 10, 11 Oct 95

[Article by Salah al-Mukhtar: "With First Democratic Referendum Approaching, Is Democracy Trojan Horse or Is It Mobilization of Capabilities of Freedom Lovers Against U.S. Imperialism; What Does Exporting Democracy on Tank Towers Mean; Why Does United States Want To Destroy Iraq and How Has It Failed; Referendum and Future of Iraq"]

[9 Oct 95, pp 1, 6]

[FBIS Translated Text] The insolence of U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration is not the only thing that draws attention. This administration is also extremely naive when it declares that it is its duty to spread democracy in the world, with wars and pressure! How can a political system whose foundation and essence is the expression of the free will of a free people be exported to other countries that have totally different cultures, civilizations, ideologies, and policies? The "proliferation of democracy in the world" is in fact identical to slogans that the United States has fought and continues to fight forcefully, such as the slogan of "exporting communism by revolution" or the slogan of "exporting the Islamic revolution."

Until a few years ago, the U.S. campaign was focused against the export of any kind of ideas from one people to another, whether by force or by political advocacy. The U.S. starting point was evident at the time, namely that any political or intellectual system must emanate from the people's environment and must reflect their free will. Otherwise, exported ideas will be nothing but an instrument to dominate and abolish the freedom and will of peoples.

Today, the United States is practicing what communism practiced in the past and is embracing the "Islamic revolution's export" method which it has denounced and continues to denounce to this day! Therefore, one must pause a little before this point and ask what the U.S. slogan of exporting democracy to other countries means? What does the system of forcing countries to accept the U.S. democracy or else be subjected, if they refuse, to blockade, war, and organized destruction entail?

First and foremost, one must remember one of the most self-evident truths of democracy, namely that its root and spirit are the reflection of the people's free will under the umbrella of freedom and in the absence of compulsion or coercion. For democracy to exist, man has to be free and not subject to influences that force him to retreat from his opinions and options and to accept the opinions and options of others, be those others friend or foe. Therefore, the U.S. slogan of exporting democracy is tantamount to the automatic abolition of the crux of democracy. Such democracy does not emanate from the people but is exported to them under totally fabricated and biased influences.

If we presume the presence among peoples and governments of common factors that help the emergence of common elements in the sphere of democracy, then the aforementioned export process clashes directly with an instinctive sentiment that predates politics, namely that any people's "internal house" affairs are a matter that concerns the people of the house itself and that outsiders have no right to intervene in these affairs. As soon as outsiders intervene, a complex problem arises, namely the problem of whether the "intervention" is legitimate or an act of aggression?

A national bond that arises throughout the interactions of thousands of years is tantamount to some sort of rejection of foreign intervention. Nationalism grants its followers the right to determine the nation's fateful and domestic affairs. As for the others, even if neighbors or "friends," they must respect the nation's will and must not intervene in what concerns it. This is why the concept of sovereignty emerged as a nationalist reflection of the rejection of all kinds of foreign intervention. Based on this historical fact, a concept which has prevailed in the world since ancient times and which has become one of the most important laws of the modern age has been crystallized. This is the concept of the unity of a nation's or a country's members, regardless of how profound their disagreements, against a foreigner who seeks to intervene. It is a concept that views such a position as a patriotic position that may not be dissipated. This is why a nation's "devils" support its ruling "angels" when the nation is exposed to the threats of foreign "devils." Moreover, a nation's "angels" support its ruling "devils" if the homeland is subjected to a foreign threat when these devils are ruling and defending it. What was called "national consensus" in Europe during World War II is an example of this alliance.

In this well-known sense, the national bond strongly and unhesitatingly rejects any form of foreign intervention in domestic affairs, be it intervention with political, propaganda, or cultural means. It considers such intervention a violation of its dignity, pride, and interests. The democratic concept is the most sensitive to foreign intervention. A nation can understand and accept criticism addressed to it from abroad or a condemnation of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

its policy, but it cannot understand or accept the goal of the replacement of its political regime by foreigners who then proceed to impose an alternative political system. Such a thing totally and fundamentally eliminates the people's will and imposes on them the will of an elite that rules another people! This is a compounded aggression: aggression against a nation through intervention in its domestic affairs and an aggression against the nation's free opinion by imposing on it the opinion of an elite ruling another nation and by making this opinion the basis of its life. Therefore, history says that modern wars have often erupted under the impact of the slogan of repelling a foreign challenge or foreign intervention. If this condition of foreign intervention materializes and if a political regime is imposed, the crux of democracy will collapse and millions of people will be subjected to mass humiliation by being forced to change their free convictions. Thus, true democracy is the reflection of a free people's free will without foreign pressures, and we must never forget this.

The danger of the process of crushing the democratic environment escalates when military force is used "to impose democracy." Imposition means that the people of the country subjected to intervention don't want what the intruders want, even if some citizens don't agree with their government on this or that issue. If we compare the material and moral losses caused by a war that seeks to change a certain regime and the continued presence of such a regime, we will find that the war automatically—and always—leads to the infliction of irreparable moral damage and to immense material losses. Combined, these damages make the option of war to impose democracy more costly, damaging, and harmful to the people than the continued presence of a regime that may not be democratic but that can be reformed or replaced through relatively lengthy political action. Thus, resolution of the democracy issue through external war is nothing but an act of organized sabotage and an instrument for imperialist infiltration.

The stronger is domestic resistance to the war "to impose democracy," the more it shows that the people support the regime to be changed, not vice versa. If the people were opposed to the regime, they would not support it and fight in its defense, thus enduring sacrifices in lives and property. A dictatorial regime that is hostile to the people will not last in the face of any foreign military attack for which forces stronger than the regime's forces are mobilized. Rather, such a regime would collapse within hours or days because the people have no interest in defending it. Perhaps what happened to Noriega, Panama's ruler, when the United States hunted him down with a military invasion is an example of this kind of regimes which have nothing to do with the people. When the people find that the regime represents them, defends their homeland and survival, and reflects their free will, then they will support and back up the regime and rally behind it unhesitatingly, regardless of political and ideological disagreements. An example of the second condition is Iraq's steadfastness in the face of the extraordinary 30-state aggression, with its cover and its influences, and the continuation of this steadfastness despite the devastating all-out blockade. This blockade has gone on for five years during which the people have been deprived of food and drugs. Yet, they have continued to defend their homeland. If it were not for their belief in their leadership, would Iraq be able to stand fast in the face of challenges that would be impossible for the United States to endure for more than one month?

Another element that destroys the natural democracy environment is the exposure of the people, or part of them, to mass brainwashing processes for a prolonged period of time that is enough to reshape the ideas and convictions of a part of the people, thus turning them against what they had previously believed. For example, a ferocious military war is launched against a certain people, destroying all mainstays of their normal life. An all-out blockade is then imposed, depriving people of everything, even food and drugs. The people are also subjected to immense and well-studied propaganda campaigns to shake their convictions; distort the facts; and implant worry and instability in their minds. According to what this scheme assumes, the pressures of death, starvation, fear, instability, poor security, and a fearful propaganda onslaught will, as time passes, influence the citizen's original options. The citizen then embarks on a comparison, which he initially rejects, between his convictions and the conditions he should accept in order to put an end to his daily suffering. With increased pressures, the resistance of some individuals collapses. They are compelled to bend their heads before the storm and accept the enemy's "logic, conditions, or ideas" in an effort to restore stability and security and to end the starvation!

In this troubled and abnormal psychological environment, some sort of disagreement in opinion may develop within society and there may emerge a group that is not concerned with national or personal dignity, credibility, or the honor of principles. Such a group may focus its efforts just on gaining quick material benefits. In contrast, the intellectual vanguard continues to defend its intellectual, political, national, and moral principles, but because "hunger is godless," as everybody agrees, the enemy, who has imposed the blockade, war, and propaganda campaigns, expects that any elections held under the umbrella of such conditions will lead his support-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

ers to victory, considering that they promise to provide bread!

These conditions, created by a malicious enemy, are extraordinary and abnormal conditions that are not appropriate for holding elections because the citizen will be under harsh pressures that will perhaps not help him make a free and sound choice. This is exactly what the imperialist powers seek, such as the United States which has blockaded Iraq and launched war against it. It has engaged in the worst and most dangerous forms of propaganda war to confuse Iraq and to force the Iraqi people to abandon their national honor, dignity, and noble principles and to accept suicidal conditions, foremost of which is the delivery of Iraq to the "United States" as a servile and subservient colony.

In light of the above, any observer can see with utter clarity that it is possible to transform democracy from a system through which the people govern themselves by themselves to a system in which the people elect, under the pressure of the aforementioned factors, rulers whom they despise because these rulers will be nothing but obedient tools that the imperialist enemy rides to rule the country. Starvation, disease, and ceaseless war exhaust some people. The resulting democracy of lackeys is just an outwardly cover for the imperialists to rule, to dwarf the country, and to transform it into a marginal power.

The democracy of lackeys is characterized not just by being an outward cover for disgrace but also by being a step on the path to spreading the democracy of armies. The United States says explicitly that it is the world leader and that all other countries have to accept its leadership without resistance. This means that the United States gives other countries no freedom to choose internally or externally. Rather, it forces other countries to submit to its exclusive control by letting its armies and its allies' armies invade certain countries and impose democracy on them. So, this is the democracy of armies which complements the democracy of lackeys.

We have before us several U.S. scenarios that have become obvious since their application. With these scenarios, the United States has sought to spread the democracy of lackeys. In Eastern Europe, elections were held hastily when communism collapsed. Consequently, elements that cannot be fittingly characterized as more than lackeys won in those elections because these elements, which had been communist, turned against communism; adopted the worst forms of capitalism; and advocated subservience to the United States. Despite this, such elements won between 1990-93 because the masses were under the influence of immense brainwashing activities, the pressures of the unexpected and devastating change brought about by coups, and the dream of a divine alternative.

Thus, we saw prominent communists who had fought capitalism for more than 40 years turn into advocates of capitalism. Would anybody but a lackey who has no intellect, no will, and no conscience do such a thing? However, the years 1993-95 have seen the bursting of the U.S. balloons and activities to deceive the world because it has become evident from experience that capitalism is the true source and permanent well of society's primary evils. Poverty has prevailed after sufficiency; crime after security; and corruption after balance. Social "parasites" have emerged and ended up owning "billions" suddenly. Thus, ordinary people realized that the forcefully exported U.S. capitalism has been a major snare and suicidal act. Consequently, the majority has resumed its hostility to capitalism and has been advocating socialism.

The absolute biggest lackey of all was Mikhail Gorbachev, who carried on his own back the dynamite to blow up the Soviet Union and who planted this dynamite in the mainstays of the regime and then detonated it! But Gorbachev was unable to stay in power for no reason other than his treasonous role that lacked all conscience, honor, and credibility. Thus, he deserved the title of lackey, which is milder than the other harsh names that citizens of the former Soviet Union call him, the least of which is "traitor."

In Iraq, even though the Iraqi people have endured pains that no other people have endured, and of which just a part would have made many U.S. citizens sell their women, even their children, to fill their bellies—in Iraq, the reaction has not been the same as the reaction of peoples who have no history or the reaction of human blocs that emerged unexpectedly on the stage of developments, such as the U.S. population. The Iraqi people have clung to their history, to the principles for which they have struggled, and to the sublime values in which they have believed. They have been determined to respect their history and honor. This is why the Iraqi people have not bowed their heads before imperialism and why they have not been trapped by the snares of the imperialist propaganda. The Iraqi people have continued their valiant resistance, making sacrifices that nobody in history has ever made before. Here, one must ask: Why have the Iraqi people stood fast whereas the Soviet Union collapsed? The answer to this question must not disregard two primary facts: The first is that the deeper the people's historical roots and the firmer and older their civilization, the more predominant their "values system" becomes in the phases of fateful challenges. It even predominates natural instincts. The second fact is that the Iraqi people have stood fast and will continue to

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

stand fast because they realize that the designed scheme is not content with harming them but seeks, in fact, to expose them to a pulverizing civil war that crushes millions of women, children, and men and that leads to partitioning Iraq. Therefore, their steadfastness is not just the less costly if compared with what the Iraqi people could pay if they don't stand fast, preserve their unity, and stand firmly behind their leader. It is also the only path to survival and to foiling the schemes to ignite a civil war or to partition Iraq. How is this and what does it mean?

[10 Oct 95, pp 1, 3]

[FBIS Translated Text] Historians, researchers, and strategists at times pause before conditions and phenomena that are difficult for them to understand and that cannot be measured with their good instruments. Therefore, they either acknowledge defeat or say modestly: This conditions is strange and difficult to explain. Perhaps its explanation is this or that! Iraq's steadfastness in the face of the United States, now that the United States has gotten the opportunity to become the world's bloody-minded dictator and that the entire world has gotten behind it, is in itself a historic victory. Only the ignorant and those who have souls sickened with hatred and with the tendency for revenge and vengeance deny this victory.

The war that took place between Iraq on the one hand and, on the other hand, the United States and 33 other states, is a world war by all the criteria adopted to characterize the first two world wars. Nobody, whomsoever he is, may imagine that the Iraqi forces had planned to invade Washington, London, or Paris. Moreover, nobody may imagine that Iraq had expected to annihilate the allied forces amassed in the region because the material balances of power were totally biased in favor of the U.S. dictatorship. This fact made Iraq declare its objectives clearly, specifically, and unambiguously, saying, "We will prevent the United States from invading Iraq and imposing a lackey regime on it." Iraq said this in response to what James Baker, the state secretary of war criminal George Bush, had said to Tariq 'Aziz before the aggression was launched, namely that the "United States will return Iraq to the pre-industrial age and will install another Iraqi Government."

Iraq's victory is definitely n its steadfastness, its survival, and its maintenance of its political structures. The defeat of the United States and of its allies is embodied, on the one hand, in the failure to return Iraq to the pre-industrial age and, on the other hand, in their evident and repeated failure to change the Iraqi Government, even though they have employed everything in their power for this purpose.

Iraq has triumphed with its steadfastness, its reconstruction and development activities, and its maintenance of its political line and of the symbols of its national honor because it has proceeded on the basis of two facts: first, that the "values system" possessed by a historical people like the Iraqi people forms an immensely solid and strong base that can withstand pressures and challenges under which human instincts collapse. What is meant by the "values system" is the Iraqi citizen's psychological and intellectual structures and formations which govern his conduct and his decisive options, especially at moments when demands of the well-known survival instincts clash with this citizen's values system. Voluntarily and vigilantly, the Iraqi citizen chooses to suppress his instincts, including the love of life, when he finds that submission to natural instincts is disgraceful by the criteria of his values, traditions, and principles.

The illiterate and the intellectual in Iraq share this characteristic. Every Iraqi whose ancestors lived in Iraq must have imbibed the Iraqi values since birth, with these values becoming a second nature. Rather, in moments of challenge or of danger, this second nature becomes more influential than the original, i.e. instinctive, nature!

So as not to let the esteemed reader get lost in theoretical labyrinths, we will rely on evident examples to explain this issue. For big social blocs, our inherited traditions, both positive and negative, constitute fire borders [red lines] that may not be penetrated or surpassed . If they are, then blood and death begin their tragic cycle. For example, to a European or American man, a slap to the face or mud hurled at a man's head mean nothing more than a silly act that may be ignored or answered with an unfriendly word, but if the same act is perpetrated with a tribal chieftain or an eminent "family head," then the reaction is totally different. This is, first, because the act implies a premeditated insult and not a childish whim. To hurl mud means something and sends a message, namely that he who hurls it seeks to insult and challenge the position of the eminent man. Secondly, the consequences of such an act can be eliminated only with the very firm punishment of the person who perpetrates it. If it is proven that somebody else has instigated the perpetrator, then he, too, is punished.

While making the challenge, the first party understands perfectly well that the "chieftain" is a symbol of the dignity and courage of a group of people and that if he insults the chieftain and the latter remains silent, then his entire group of people are insulted and their heads hang down! Therefore, the only way out is blood

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and firm punishment meted out by the offended party. Arab history abounds with wars caused by what may sound like an insignificant act but which is an act that harbors far-reaching meanings. Why has the Iraqi man sacrificed himself and his sons just to retaliate for some mud hurled at his head? Because he believes profoundly that his personal dignity is the guarantee of his distinguished presence in society. If his dignity is wounded, he loses his presence and his status and the disgrace of cowardice crowns his head. Therefore, these value influences govern the Iraqi man and motivate him to defy the instinct for survival, to choose to fight, and to accept death.

This obvious example needs no further explanation. What we need is to clarify the role of these social values in a modern society. Some people may say, "But these values are tribal values and we are a civilian society." This is objection is outwardly sound but actually faulty. Despite its civilian character, our society continues to consist of tribes and clans. Therefore, tribal values play a strong role, especially in time of challenges. Consequently, the best modern option is a fusion of modern age values and the positive elements n the traditional society's values. Who dares say that the values of trust in the family or clan head and of defending his dignity, even if it entails the death of dozens of people, is not a positive value? The value of this head symbolizes the value and dignity of all others. It is a positive and civilized group behavior and not a backward individual phenomenon. The sphere of this value can be expanded and made a basis for defending the dignity of a homeland subjected to insults, which has actually happened.

Is there a genuine Iraqi who defends his father if he is insulted or his tribe's chieftain if some try to humiliate him but who would not be prepared to die for the honor of all Iraqi men and women? Certainly, the epic steadfastness and the boundless sacrifices in Saddam's glorious Qadisiyah [war with Iran] and in the immortal mother of all battles are due to this great root of values. In moments of challenges and when he hears his enemies speaking about stabbing Iraq's honor by targeting Saddam Husayn, its loftiest symbol, the Iraqi citizen remembers only that Iraq's loftiest symbol is the older brother, the father, the chief, and the revered grandfather. Consequently, as long as steadfastness is the key to frustrating the enemies and the inlet to a clear victory, this citizen rushes to die for Iraq, thus foiling all the international and regional formulas.

The Iraqi people, by invoking all the traditional and historical "value systems" and by their voluntary submission to the positive influences of these systems, have made the miracle of this age and of all ages, namely the miracle of defeating the schemes of the biggest and strongest evil empire in the immortal mother of all battles. These are the two historical and psychological elements in the Iraqi victory saga. They are elements not possessed by the U.S. settler groups who live on the peripheries of history and in its dark corners because they are the grandchildren of criminals, of prosecuted people, and of escapees from life. He who does not know this fact cannot understand the "secret" of the mythical steadfastness of Iraq and of its people.

The second fact is that the Iraqi people—who have stood fast, fought, and succeeded in keeping Iraq united and strong—have done this because they realize clearly that the United States does not actually want to change just the political regime but that it wants to accomplish much more serious goals than just changing the political regime. If the U.S. objective were just to change the regime, then the United States would have accepted first and foremost to set up in northern Iraq, which is under its control, a "political model" that is attractive enough to entice Iraqis and others. Instead, w find that the self-rule which President Saddam Husayn established in northern Iraq has turned into anarchy and a civil war in which gangs, killing, and organized murder prevail! Is there a single mind that can be persuaded that the United States cannot compel the Barzanis and the Talabanis to end their fighting if it really wanted to compel them?

The fragmentation and the civil war taking place in northern Iraq are what the United States wants for all of Iraq. What is sought is to burn Iraq and to annihilate millions of Iraqis. Such a thing can be accomplished only with democracy, even if it is the democracy of lackeys. Rather, the rule of armed mafias must be founded and spread because only such a rule can keep war, fighting, and thievery prevalent in society so millions of Iraqis will die and so there will arise from among the Iraqi people those who are prepared to turn into an obedient instrument of imperialism.

Iraq is not the only place where the United States wishes to ignite civil war in the name of democracy. There are numerous countries that possess the same immunity as the Iraqi people and that have become a victim of criminal U.S. schemes. For example, the devastating civil wars raging in Yugoslavia could be stopped with a U.S. decision, if the United States wanted, but the United States does not want them to end. Rather, it wants Yugoslavia's wars to go on so as to ignite Balkan wars. The United States, which amassed 600,000 troops in the name of "rescuing Kuwait" could amass 100,000 troops to end the war of Yugoslavia. The statement that the absence of oil in Yugoslavia is what discourages the United States from sending troops there is completely true. However, this is not the only reason for its

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

nonintervention. The United States wishes to ignite civil wars within all of East Europe and the Balkans. This is why it insists on the continuation and entrenchment of the war in Yugoslavia. The U.S. determination to spark off a civil war in Iraq—a determination which has taken the form of an acknowledgment by the CIA director and by numerous prominent U.S. officials that the "U.S. attempt to change the regime in Iraq does not provide a guarantee that the alternative will succeed. Rather, it is more likely that a civil war will break out as a result of the resistance that will confront any attempt at change"—we say that this U.S. determination to spark off civil wars in Iraq can only be interpreted as being the result of several given facts.

The first given fact is that the United States sees in controlling the Iraqi oil a precondition for controlling and colonizing the world. This is why the plan for "U.S. leadership of the world," about which Bush talked and which Clinton did not mention until recently, and only as a result of pressure by the Republicans, is a failed project as long as Iraq remains steadfast. This means that destroying Iraq is one of the most important international goals of the United States.

The second given fact is that the "Iraqi problem" has not been resolved with the demolition of the mass destruction weapons Iraq owned, even though this is, according to Security Council Resolution 687, the sole requirement for lifting the economic blockade. Rather, the real Iraqi problem for the United States has become the problem of the human factor, not the military factor. During the period in which the inspection commissions worked in Iraq, the United States, as well as these commissions, discovered that Iraq had strengthened its military capabilities not by imports or transfers, as it was said. Rather, they discovered that the Iraqi scientific and technological intellect, which had grown, developed, and become sophisticated during the war with Iran, has become capable of creating, inventing, and manufacturing very sophisticated weapons and equipment.

Therefore, the goal of eliminating the mass destruction weapons, which has been accomplished, is no longer a major objective. What has emerged now is the problem of how to get rid of the scientifically and technologically qualified human cadre in Iraq. This cadre is not counted by the hundreds but by the thousands. The technical capabilities of thousands of Iraqi engineers and scientists are enough to rebuild an advanced and strong Iraq when the blockade is lifted. This condition would be in total contrast with what the United States has sought, namely to make Iraq a permanently weak and dwarfed country, especially since the U.S. international strategy is based on preventing other countries from acquiring any sophisticated dual-purpose technological experience.

How will the United States resolve the "challenge" of the Iraqi human element? In the first years after the cease-fire, the United States exerted mammoth efforts to "buy" Iraqi scientists and to encourage them to leave Iraq. However, the Iraqi patriotic spirit was a decisive factor that has made Iraq's scientists the first to sacrifice and the last to enjoy the fruits. The U.S. inducements to scientists have been coupled with threats. The U.S. media has talked of U.S. schemes to assassinate some Iraqi scientists. However, Iraq's scientists have not batted an eyelid. Threats work with U.S. and other scientists but do not work with a scientist who respects himself and who has a homeland like Iraq. Thus, the United States has chosen to partition Iraq and to ignite in it a civil war which lasts for years and in which millions of Iraqis will die so as to get rid of Iraq's scientists and their capabilities.

The third given is that the Zionist entity realized as of 1990 that its future had become dark and sealed with the world's discovery that Iraq had neutralized the "Israeli" nuclear weapon with the production of the Iraqi binary chemical weapon. Iraq thus restored the Arab-Israeli conflict to the sphere of Arab-Zionist capabilities, in which the Arabs possess absolute superiority. Consequently, the Zionists realized that the presence of a strong Iraq that possesses a strategic deterrent would be a factor that promotes Israel's death and disappearance without wars and just through the presence of absolute Arab superiority in all spheres.

This fact explains with utter clarity the special motives that made the United States wage an all-out and direct war against Iraq and the reasons why it prevented Israel from officially participating in that war. Iraq's size and power were much greater than Israel's ability to defy Iraq. Moreover, Israel's participation in the war officially would have exposed to Arabs and Muslims the fact that the attempt to destroy Iraq was being made in order to ensure Israel's future and to assassinate the Arab-Islamic dream of the emergence of a scientifically and technologically-advanced Arab-Islamic force that is strong enough to rally the Islamic world behind it.

The presence of big Iraqi scientific and technological capabilities not only cancels or neutralizes the element of the Israeli nuclear deterrent but also cancels what is more important, namely the Israeli role as designed by the Zionist scheme. This is a role by which Israel monopolizes the position of the leader and planner for the future of the entire region. The Zionist scheme views Israel as the "genius mind" that can transform the Middle East into a region of peace and prosperity by

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

exploiting Arab money and Arab capabilities to serve the "genius Jewish mind." Within the context of this scheme, no Arab country, even if it is Israel's "friend," may possess a scientific-technological base on which it can depend to secure any sort of self-reliance because this will open a gap in the wall of the Israeli role and will weaken this role, or may even cancel it.

This is why for Israel, the emergence of Iraq as a country that has "an army of scientists and engineers" means primarily negation of the basis for its presence as a sole leader. It also reduces Israel to its true size. Consequently, the Zionist plan to transform the entire Middle East region into a sphere of indisputable Israeli influence collapses.

It is an old Israeli goal to partition Iraq and to ignite civil war in it, and the United States is working to attain this goal on behalf of Israel. If Israel carried out this act directly, its action would mobilize Arabs and Muslims against it and would force their rulers to support Iraq. This is in addition to Israel's inability to defy Iraq militarily. Therefore, the U.S. confrontation against Iraq has harbored the sly tactic of neutralizing Arabs and Muslims or of exploiting them to participate in foiling the greatest Arab and Islamic revival project, all out of support for Israel and the Zionist scheme.

If we consider what is going on in Iraq now we realize clearly that some Arabs and Muslims have participated in striking Iraq militarily, thus serving Israel, which has again become the sole possessor of mass annihilation weapons that had been neutralized by Saddam Husayn's chemical weapons. These Arabs and Muslims are also persisting in a blockade that is fundamentally Arab and Islamic because all the countries surrounding Iraq are Arab or Muslim countries. This blockade leads to the continued obstruction of Iraq's capabilities and permits Israel to dictate its terms and its leadership without any discussion.

What is more saddening is that numerous Arab governments have "loudly" declared that the United Nations must destroy whatever weapons Iraq continues to possesses and must set up guarantees to prevent Iraq from re-building destroyed weapons! Other Arabs stand up to say that eliminating Iraq's weapons is a precondition for security and stability in the Middle East! As for "Israel," it is no longer a threat to these Arabs. Even though Israel possesses nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, they no longer demand that it be disarmed or link Iraq's disarmament to Israel's disarmament. It is as if the goal is to deprive the Arab side of deterrence capabilities so Israel alone will continue to possess the possibility of control and of dictating terms. Is this what this type of "Arabs" wants?

Would this have been possible if it had not been for the tactic whereby Israel has been kept out of the picture and the United States has confronted Iraq? Had Israel waged the war against Iraq, would the Arab and Islamic positions have been as forcefully neutralized as they are now? Would it have been possible to mislead the devastating popular reactions, if they had surged forth? Or would we have seen the continuation of the biggest, broadest, deepest, and most dangerous Arab popular uprising in the modern age—an uprising which started during the 30-state aggression against Iraq and which ended after the 1991 cease-fire?

Nobody can deny a fundamental fact, namely that had Israel struck Iraq, supposing that it could do it, then its blow would have been an element for the mobilization hundreds of millions of Arabs and Muslims behind Iraq and an invincible motive for them to unite against the official and open enemy of every true Muslim and Arab.

Because of the impact of the aforementioned facts, we have seen the United States play the role of "defender of Kuwait" and international law in order to mislead the world and the Arabs and to make them agree to striking and blockading Iraq under the slogan of "withdrawal from Kuwait." We have then seen expansion of the U.S. objectives to include Israel's objectives, namely to destroy Iraq's infrastructure and its scientific and technological capabilities and to destabilize its psychological and political makeup in order to partition it for decades to come, with the "Israeli era" thus rising without any impediments.

We now clearly see this game being played. Iraq has withdrawn from Kuwait and recognized it. Iraq's mass destruction weapons have been destroyed. It has implemented the main Security Council resolutions and it has agreed to the future monitoring system (Resolution 715). Despite this, U.S. hostility to Iraq and to its people is getting stronger and deeper. The United States fabricates excuses daily to widen the scope of the Iraqi people's torture and to destabilize their society! What is surprising in this regard is that some of the Arab rulers who fought Iraq in the name of ousting it from Kuwait have not "remembered" to date that the logic they embraced officially in their fight, namely to defend Kuwait's sovereignty, should be the same logic that stirs them now to defend Iraq. Iraq's sovereignty is violated daily. Its northern part has been officially and practically separated from it by force. Thousands of its citizens are killed daily because of the blockade. Its strategic weapons have been destroyed. The evil empire has exceeded the bounds of the UN authorization; has destroyed Iraq's non-military plants; and has tried to divide it to three states!

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

All this has happened, and the Arab rulers have been watching it and taking part in it, as if they were aware from the outset of the fact that the true principle and objective behind striking Iraq was not to oust it from Kuwait but to destroy the sole Arab and Islamic hope of the emergence of a major, advanced, and capable Arab Islamic power! If it were not for this awareness, these rulers would not continue to be silent, and to even demand that Iraq dry up the blood of life in its citizens' veins!

These are the motives and consequences of the tactic of pushing Israel to the rear and of making the United States and its Arab allies fight Iraq in the name of Kuwait! Whoever says that he is not against Iraq and is not hostile to the Iraqi people must prove his words with deeds now. Else, no observer will be able to avoid the sad conclusion that some Arabs cooperate with the United States, the number one and most dangerous enemy of the Arabs and Muslims, and with Zionism to destroy the Arabs' hope for revival and progress.

Therefore, the United States does not want democracy or stability to be established in Iraq. Rather, it wishes to torture the Iraqi people; to assassinate millions of Iraqis; to offend Iraq's honor; to wound its dignity; and to partition it as a homeland. These goals are indubitable. Rather, they have become decisions which the United States wishes to impose by force. If not for the Iraqi people's resistance, the biggest disaster in the Arab and Islamic history would have occurred.

The two final questions are: Why the referendum now? How do we emerge victorious and triumphant in this serious historical conflict?

[11 Oct 95, pp 1, 2]

[FBIS Translated Text] The developments of our modern world, especially since 1990, confirm, as we have demonstrated in this study, the presence of several phenomena which form together an international dictatorial method that has an explicit and clear-cut colonialist character. This method is based on abolishing the sovereignty of other states and on dealing with them as targets that must be penetrated as a prelude to their "containment" and subjugation to the U.S. imperialism.

To upturn and alter the crux of democracy, which is the free will of a free people, and to turn it into a system imposed on countries with the force of U.S. tanks is an exemplary reflection of a central imperialist tendency. This tendency wants to control the world, even if this control requires perpetrating massacres, sparking off civil wars, igniting wars between countries, and obstructing the termination of such wars so the unity of countries will collapse and so the elements of the cohesion of societies will be wrecked.

Moreover, we find another expression of this central imperialist tendency in the U.S. possession of a superior and unique information and communication agency which can distort the facts or black them out completely. It can also disseminate the information it wants in order to neutralize the world, if it is impossible to gain its support. As a result, other countries and nations are confronted with serious challenges, of which the most significant is that the United States, with its sophisticated war machine, will launch war against them or threaten them with such war. Meanwhile, the U.S. media will upturn the facts and depict the targeted country as a "threat to world security and peace which must be wiped out," or the targeted country will be surrounded militarily and blockaded economically in the name of international legitimacy. Economic sabotage and psychological warfare activities will be then launched.

Under the impact of these varied pressures (civil war, war between countries, economic blockades, and media deception) that are exerted by the United States, the genuine democratic environment is destroyed. A sound democratic system is the fruit of domestic stability and established security which provide the citizen with the opportunities to express his opinion freely and without pressures and challenges. These pressures also create the environment for emergency laws, whose first victim is democracy.

We must not forget that the phrase "emergency laws" was coined by Europe and the imperialist west. When faced with major challenges, the governments of Europe and the United States declare emergencies, despite their immense military capabilities as major powers, especially their nuclear capability. They suspend laws and parts of the constitution concerning individual rights on the pretext of protecting security from threats. Perhaps the United States and Britain offer the best example in this regard. During World War II, the United States placed thousands of its citizens from Japanese extraction in detention camps. Its pretext was precaution against the possibility that some of those citizens would carry out sabotage acts. We should keep in mind that the United States was far from the European battlefields and that it possessed vast military capabilities! As for Britain, the Irish opposition was prevented until a few months ago from responding to accusations made against it by Britain and by the British press, even though British law demands that those accused be given the right to respond. This prohibition, even of speech and responding to others, was explained as a national security requirement!

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In light of the above, the evil dictatorship (United States) ignites wars, creates hot crises here and there, and employs all its capabilities to block any peaceful solution to them, regardless of whether the solution is submitted to or by the United Nations, or by a regional organization. What the evil dictatorship seeks is to eliminate the natural environment for democracy and to establish anarchy and instability in the world because they help drain adversaries and weaken allies, thus permitting it to manipulate the sovereignty of states and world trade without a deterrent or control.

Because the United States has the upper hand now, these emergency conditions in various countries—conditions which cause starvation, instability, and fear—are exploited to blackmail peoples and countries by limiting their choices: Either accept the U.S. option or continue to be faced with wars and hot crises. As a consequence of years of tension and challenges, intellectual and psychological changes occur within certain blocs in targeted countries. The United States relies on such blocs to envelope its colonization of the world in an acceptable legitimate character. Foremost amongst these changes is the inclination of opportunistic parties to accept the U.S. imperialism as the sole option that "guarantees" an end to wars and to rushing crises. In such a climate, the U.S. slogan of "spreading democracy in the world" seems as if it is designed to motivate those who have broken down, the turncoats, and the scum of every society to move and demand "free elections." These types hope to blackmail the starved and to push them toward the option of national treason and of abandoning human dignity and to select puppets, agents, and social scum as rulers—rulers who hand over the keys of their countries to the United States, especially the keys of the "sacred chambers" in every home!

The Iraqi proverb which says "you want a rabbit, take a rabbit; you want a gazelle, take a rabbit" applies to this kind of democracy. The option here contains no degree of freedom and brings no flexibility to the search for a solution to the crisis. Rather, it is just a channel designed in advance to lead from the fire to the pavement of the burnt house, where one stands without a house or a goal and without knowing whether the fire will extend to devour even the pavement itself or not?

Perhaps one of the worst farces of the new central imperialism that we are facing these days is the U.S. determination to impose everything, not just what form of democracy, on other peoples. For example, to normalize its relations with Cuba, Vietnam, North Korea, and China, the United States demands that they establish the "market economy" and accept the liberal western democracy. The "market economy" is the new and improved name for the worst and most brutal system of exploitation throughout history, namely the capitalist system. Is there any imperialism worse than the imperialism that demands as a condition that another foreign country establish a certain socioeconomic system and not another so relations will be "normalized" or so war and hostility will be ended? Can anybody deny the fact that this demand is tantamount to the communist call turned upside down? In other words, capitalism—which was besieged, denounced, and diminished throughout the first six decades of this century as a result of the strong communist march which threatened to eliminate it—viewed the communist march as an encroachment on the freedom of peoples to choose and as a form of international dictatorship. This is why capitalism presented the well-known alternative: free choice by peoples through liberal democracy! Now, there is no liberalism and nothing of the sort. The only freedom permitted is the freedom to chose the U.S. imperialism!

With childish defiance of peoples' dignity, U.S. President Clinton is not reluctant to demand that countries abandon planned economy and release freedom of the market, as if he is talking to a U.S. state! The amazing paradox in this issue does not become clear until we remember that this international political dictatorship is coupled with the near-disappearance of the "market economy" in the United States itself. This is because the mechanism of the development and expansion of capitalist production has created monopoly. Consequently, prices of goods are not determined under the umbrella of free competition. Monopoly and good marketing have become the basis for determining prices. Moreover, government in the United States is no longer a policeman who watches but does not intervene, which is what the United States wants other countries to do. Rather, the U.S. federal government plans education, health, and culture and intervenes even in people's tastes! So, is there any form of free choice there?

Internationally, the call for a "market economy" is coupled with escalation in the U.S. policy of terrorism and blackmail, even vis-a-vis major U.S. allies. Japan is subjected to severe pressures to curtail its enormous production capabilities and to import from the United States rice and other goods which it does not need. West Europe faces ferocious U.S. opposition to the establishment of a unified European currency and U.S. trade restrictions are growing stronger! So where is the "market economy" that presumes the free exchange of goods and non-intervention by the government, except to regulate this natural process?

We are witnessing today a radical totalitarian tendency that is unprecedented in history. Even communist totalitarianism seems to have been naive and primitive and to have worked against its own survival. The proof is

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

that with its singular voice, this totalitarianism killed the spirit of creativity and the motive to create. The U.S. totalitarianism is an intelligent, well studied, and dangerous type of totalitarianism that is not content with controlling the material world, i.e. goods and relations exchanged by individuals and countries. Rather, this totalitarianism intervenes in the mechanisms of man's thought processes and his psychological makeup through psychological and medical research that is used to control man, to govern his motives, and to turn him into a living robot.

Under the umbrella of this totalitarianism, man's intellect, culture, and taste are reshaped. Man is denied free opinion and choice and made to accept "preludes" that must inevitably lead him to conclusions already formulated by U.S. intelligence agencies and research centers. Thus, under the umbrella of this imperialist totalitarianism, democracy turns into a tool of repression and control, even though a pretty-looking tool. This tool is used after the other tools, such as wars and blockades, are readied as an "appropriate environment" to create lackeys, followers, and scum.

This is a comprehensive image of the "tale of democracy" in the U.S. international scheme. It is a sad and worrying image for those who love freedom and defend justice. It is an image that highlights extremely sophisticated and intelligent methods that the United States employs to defeat and colonize peoples. We have sought to clarify all this in order to ask a vital question: Why, then, is Iraq embarking on a referendum when the United States has tried—through the 30-state aggression and the blockade that has followed it, which are more dangerous than any war and blockade ever faced by another people throughout history—to control Iraq under the slogan of "democracy" and "human rights?"

The answer to this question will highlight anew the distinguishing marks and special characteristics that make the Iraqi people the main gate to freedom, progress and civilization during the eras of barbarism, dictatorship, and blackmail, as they have been throughout the various phases of history.

The decision to conduct a referendum is not the most important decision in Iraq's modern history. It is a fundamental and vital decision, but it is derived from a more important and serious decision, namely the decision to refuse to submit to the imperialist terms and to defend Iraq's independence and the freedom and future of its people against a major criminal attempt to control the country and to ignite a civil war in it. The United States seeks to make this war an inlet to the partition of Iraq, to the displacement of millions of Iraqis, and to the murder of millions of others.

From 1990 and to this moment, the decision to resist the United States has been based fundamentally on our awareness as Iraqis of a fact which we knew in 1990 and which has become known now to many Arabs and Muslims. This fact is that the U.S. scheme is based on planting the elements of an insurmountable crisis in Iraq and in the neighboring region and then on fanning the fires of this crisis so they will reach the stage of heated conflict. All capabilities will be then employed to impose on Iraq a lackey regime that ends the war or the crisis. Rather, they will be employed to establish lackey governments here and there. The United States wants one government in al-Basrah, another in Mosul, a third in al-Anbar, a fourth in al-'Amarah, and so forth. These governments must be pushed to engage in wars that must not end until Iraq's entity and people are destroyed and until the country is turned into a colony inhabited by obedient and servile people who are controlled by persons about which the least can be said is that they are thieves.

What has happened in Lebanon and what is happening in Yugoslavia today is what the United States is planning for Iraq also, but in a worse and more tragic fashion. Therefore, the U.S. slogans which sound pretty, such as "democracy, human rights," and other slogans, are just a cover to conceal the ultimate criminal objective. This objective has been exposed now and the CIA director has been acknowledging that a change of regimes in Iraq will be the beginning of another kind of conflict!

Is there a single honorable Iraqi who accepts to offer his neck and dignity, his wife, his daughter, and his children to be torn apart by the knives of merciless thugs and scum? Can any reasonable person accept a servile death coupled with wounded dignity and souls, which will happen if one submits to this U.S. scheme? Or will such a reasonable person fight and mobilize his capabilities on the basis that this is the only guarantee, not just to escape a death that entails premeditated humiliation but also to preserve Iraq's unity, independence, and future?

The past five years have proved very clearly that resistance in all its forms is the soundest and the least costly and damaging option because it is the guarantee to inflict defeat on the enemies. Any comparison between Iraq's conditions and Yugoslavia's conditions confirms that resisting and uniting behind Saddam Husayn, the symbol of Iraq's national honor, are the two decisive conditions for the ultimate victory. These years have also confirmed that the price of laxity, heedlessness, and delusion will be a tragic price under whose burden future generations will strain.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Five years have passed and the Iraqi people have continued to believe in this option. They have been lean years never experienced by Iraq previously. We have paid a high price to protect the Iraqi "headband and headcover" and to keep the "head" clean. In these years, Iraq has demonstrated utter cooperation with the United Nations and has expressed sincere willingness for dialogue with the United States and for solving problems with it cordially, but the United States has insisted on partitioning Iraq and on humiliating its people. Consequently, the Iraqi people have no option but to fight until victory.

This realistic awareness of the nature of the U.S. scheme in Iraq is what has made the people choose the less costly and damaging path, namely the path of resistance, even though it is difficult and painful. This awareness is also what makes the Iraqi people deal with their leadership from the perspective of provision for the future. We are selecting Saddam Husayn president now not just because we are exercising a democratic right but also because we are fundamentally exercising our right to defend Iraq's future. Without a united Iraq, Iraqi steadfastness will not last. Without Saddam Husayn's leadership, Iraq's unity will not continue. It is only around Saddam that the hearts of Iraqis, regardless of how much they disagree, rally. Any other Iraqi will be the subject of dissension and dispute. This is why every Iraqi has given up a demand and an aspiration. Thus, every Iraqi's first and foremost concern has become the concern of preserving Iraq's unity, protecting the lives of millions of Iraqis, and preventing the humiliation of millions of others as a result of displacement.

Is the dignity of an offended tribal chieftain dearer than the dignity of the great Iraq? If we shed blood in defense of a tribal chieftain, should we then hold back in making the most precious sacrifices for the sake of Iraq and its future? For us to stand behind Saddam Husayn today is an act of unsurpassed freedom. We are in the era of the U.S. bloody terrorism, under whose pressure other forces and leaders have collapsed. We don't fight terrorism by bending our heads and changing our names but by standing up and paying the price. Those who bent their heads have not escaped harm and have not survived. Rather, they have been crushed most ruthlessly and humiliated most horribly.

Let us get back to democracy and its environment. The United States has destroyed this environment in the world with its blackmail, wars, and terrorism. However, the Iraqi people, realizing the danger engulfing them and the scheme designed to destroy some of their generations, have chosen the opposite of what the United States wants. They have chosen to forget everything that creates disagreement and reluctance and to remember one thing, namely that unless we mobilize the capabilities of all Iraqis we will be exposed to disasters. To us, the referendum is an opportunity for the entire world to hear the voice of the tormented and starved Iraqis who have lost more than one million innocent lives killed by the blockade. It is an opportunity for the world to hear this voice say: Yes to a free Iraq; yes to Iraq's independence; yes to Iraq's unity.

So that these three yeses may become a material and moral force with an immense influence, we must transform them into a unified symbol embodied in saying yes to Saddam Husayn. A shout by the Iraqi citizen saying yes to Saddam Husayn is tantamount to the other side of his saying "no" to the U.S. imperialism, no to slavery, and no to the disgrace of treason and apostasy.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Peres Briefs King Husayn, Mubarak on U.S. Talks

TA1412124195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres this morning phoned Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn to brief them on the results of his talks in Washington and Rabat. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Peres told King Husayn that he had raised the question of U.S. aid to Jordan in Washington and that the U.S. secretary of defense will provide more details on the issue in his upcoming visit to the region.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus adds that Cairo Radio reported that Peres and Mubarak exchanged ideas to help advance the peace process.

Peres Comments on Meetings With Clinton, Nabulus

TA1412163395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said this evening that the process with the Palestinians will be halted if they do not amend the Palestinian Covenant and pursue the war against terrorism.

Speaking to members of the Labor Party Bureau, Peres asserted that President Clinton told him that the ideas he brought to Washington were enough to renew the peace talks with Syria. According to Clinton, Syrian President al-Asad was prepared to test this approach.

As for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] evacuation of Nabulus, Peres said that mistakes had apparently also been made on the Israeli side. Peres nevertheless justified the local commander's decision to evacuate the town, explaining that he acted correctly in light of the circumstances.

Peres Raises 'Strategic Partnership' in U.S. Talks

TA1512100495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Dec 95 p A1

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres brought up in his talks with the U.S. Administration a proposal he received from Jordan's King Husayn to set up a strategic partnership between Israel, Jordan, Turkey, and a new Iraq (which would become a confederation of three districts: Kurdish in the north, Shiite in the south, and Sunni in the center).

Peres voiced support for Husayn's proposals in his talks with the administration. On his way home, Peres told correspondents that he supports turning Iraq into a confederation and confirmed that he raised the idea in Washington. Peres also stressed to President Bill Clinton Turkey's importance in the regional lineup of forces aimed at curtailing fundamentalism.

King Husayn has in recent weeks been exerting a great deal of political effort to bring about a change of regime in Iraq. He told Peres that proposals for the division of Iraq into separate states must not be raised because such ideas only strengthen Saddam Husayn's regime. Jordanian activity arouses suspicions and tensions in Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt.

The prime minister personally intervened to make sure that the European Parliament approves the new economic agreement with Turkey; the agreement promises uniform customs between Turkey and the EU. Peres called on all his friends, the leaders of the socialist factions in Europe, to support the agreement with Turkey. Foreign Ministry sources said yesterday that the socialists' vote tipped the scales in favor of Turkey.

Furthermore, Israeli representatives in the European capitals pointed out to the various governments the importance of approving the economic agreement with Turkey in order to bring it closer to the West and Europe.

Officials close to Peres told HA'ARETZ that from Israel's point of view, Turkey's rapprochement with the West is of tremendous strategic importance. They said that this is the reason Peres has been active in the past 18 months in mediating the Cypriot problem, one of the main obstacles to Turkey's joining the EU.

Government leaders in Ankara thanked Israel for its intervention with the European Parliament. The Islamic opposition reacted sharply, claiming that Israel is trying to drive Turkey away from Islam.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew in a page-A3 report by Washington correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar adds: "Prime Minister Shim'on Peres brought up with President Clinton the idea of setting up a regional military pact modeled on NATO, which would initially be made up of Israel and Jordan. Later, with the signing of a peace accord with Syria, other states could join it.

["A senior source in Washington said that Peres wants to confer a "regional dimension" on security and water issues, similar to those of economic cooperation. Under his proposal, the pact would focus on "restraining Iran and fundamentalism."]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Clinton Said Opting for Peres' Syrian Deal

TA1412162595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Dec 95 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar in Washington: "The Visit of Santa Peres"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The reporters waiting for the joint Peres-Clinton news conference to begin wondered who the man was who came to the north wing of the White house wearing a Santa Claus costume — U.S. President Bill Clinton or Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

In the traditional relations between the two countries, it is customary that the Israeli kid sits in his big uncle's lap, nags him a little, pulls on his beard some, and is sent home with a box of candy. In the worst case — which in the last decade happened only to the Shamir-Bush duo — the kid is also asked not to stand on Uncle Sam's toes. Yitzhaq Rabin used to get his favorite military toys twice a year. He rewarded Clinton with plenty of photo-opportunities celebrating the signing of deals made far from Washington.

Peres arrived in Washington on Christmas Eve [as published] not asking for extended aid, new planes, or super missiles. The prime minister told Congress that he understands America's budgetary (political) distress, and only asked that aid to Israel and the Palestinians not be cut for now. He promised that Israel will not ask U.S. troops to defend it in the future, and did not rush to respond to the courting of the Republican competitor, Bob Dole, who offered to institutionalize U.S.-Israeli defense relations.

But even though he is a junior country leader, Peres did not lack chutzpah: He came to the holiest of the holy shrines of U.S. sovereignty — Congress and the White House — to remind Newt Gingrich and Jesse Helms that if the U.S. wants to be a superpower, it must act like one. When he volunteered an answer on the Bosnia affair, in the middle of a hot debate between Clinton and those opposed to intervention there, it felt for a minute like $3 billion crosses the Atlantic annually from east to west instead of the other way around.

Unlike his predecessor, Peres does not feel weak in the knees when he steps on U.S. soil. He has always liked the fireworks that accompany a visit of an Israeli VIP, preferably in the White House, and, as usual, racked up a headline (an Israeli astronaut). The most recycled Israeli prime minister knows that whatever is good for the Americans is usually good for the Israelis. They enjoy watching an American president making a fuss about an Israeli citizen, or congressmen enthusiastically shaking hands with a Jew who speaks English with an Israeli-Polish accent. They were given all of that for free without asking for a concession or half a concession and without the slightest pressure being applied.

Everyone knows that Peres needs no pressure to complete his New Middle East vision. Clinton must have noticed that the recent hesitation regarding the Syrian track that characterized Rabin's attitude has been replaced by Peres' eagerness. If any hidden pressures were applied during this visit, the host was the one to feel it. Peres said that he presented President al-Asad, through President Clinton, with a "basket of ideas" for negotiating mechanisms. In fact, he left Clinton two options to choose from: Risk personal involvement in the negotiations with Syria, with a reasonable chance to score an achievement before the elections; or waive that chance, but risk having to provide catering services on the South Lawn at the close of another Oslo deal. Last week Clinton was made aware that the third option — in which Peres sends the Syrian track on vacation until after the U.S. (and Israeli) elections — is out of the question. The quick phone call made to Damascus and the hasty shuttles of the secretary of state clearly show that Clinton has decided to try the first option. Peres gave the President a tailor-made role fitting an administration that fights a congress that runs the U.S. foreign affairs according to the rules of the zero-sum game: Every dollar and soldier not sent out of the United States are another dollar and soldier that remained in their constituencies. This being an election year, Clinton will not have to ask the Congress to give Syria even one red cent. Should al-Asad decide that he is interested in making peace with Israel, all the United States has to do is contribute its superpower-ness to approve of Western investments in Syria, Saudi generosity, and Syria becoming a part of "regional forums."

When the exact time comes to eliminate Syria from the list of terror supporting countries, Peres will have to convince the Congress that the Jewish main- (and reach) stream is on his side. This, to a large extent, depends on his ability to dictate a "new agenda" between Israel and the Diaspora, as he promised the Jewish activists in Washington [as published] two days ago.

Just like Peres and Labor's other primary candidates, Clinton and the congressmen will gauge the Syrian move with a strictly political yardstick. From their point of view, the burden of proof is now al-Asad's. If he does not, for example, say that the depth of peace will equal the depth of withdrawal or, for instance, if he does not join a deal in which he recalls his soldiers from Lebanon and restores peace in the Galilee, he can bid Santa Claus farewell until next Christmas, at least.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Paper Views Peres' Reception in Washington

TA1412172695 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (HAYOM supplement) in Hebrew 14 Dec 95 p 2

[Commentary by Avino'am Bar-Yosef in Washington: "Great Fatigue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Even the Washington sun, which this time of year is normally behind gray clouds, came out from its hiding place to welcome new Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. The White House promised to send an Israeli astronaut into space. The Congress went out of its way and, in an unusual gesture, held a special joint session to express their sympathy for the new Israeli leader who came to power during the mourning period for late Yitzhaq Rabin. The administration will do everything it can to secure a peace agreement with Syria that Israeli public opinion can live with.

U.S. President Bill Clinton did even more. He admired Yitzhaq Rabin, loved his frankness, coarseness, fabulous military career, and his courage as a soldier and a statesman. He envied Rabin's God-given quality of nothing ever sticking to him, the dream of every politician. The age gap between them made the President view Rabin as a member of the generation of giants who changed the shape of the world in the 20th Century. It sometimes felt like, if he could, Clinton would have taken Rabin as his vice president. Rabin had all the qualities Clinton was missing and he was happy to have such a man at his side.

At the same time, Clinton viewed Peres as the Israeli foreign minister, No. 2 at most. A dreamer who had a strong desire to determine the Israeli agenda, with vision poring from his eyes; an indefatigable type. He was told that Peres has European leanings, and that he feels better in Paris than in Washington.

Last week, Clinton decided to take Peres in his arms. He saw his sad and agonized look. He believed him when, at the funeral, he heard him referring to Rabin as "my older brother," and believed him when he said at the White House that he was sad because he lost his "senior partner." Clinton put his arm around Peres' shoulder and offered his friendship: "I will be your partner," he pledged.

If Peres believes Peres, he must believe Clinton. The U.S. President is, first and foremost, flesh and blood; a very warm and humane person. This is expressed in his ability to establish ties with world leaders, his attitude toward people, the warmth he emits with children, and even his weakness for women.

He meant every word he said. If so far, Clinton was interested and unusually versed in what happens in Israel, now he will not hesitate to get involved. The two also share a destiny: Rightfully or not, Clinton is certain a peace accord with Syria will earn him an advantage. He believes that if he completes the circle of U.S. initiatives, that include Haiti and Bosnia, the American public will view him as a statesman, not a politician. He now pins his hopes on Peres' vision, despite the fact that the prime minister has not yet been convinced that an agreement with al-Asad will help him win the elections. The man who was Clinton's guest last week is not the foreign minister he used to know.

A different Peres with a new body language arrived in Washington. He may be feeling the heavy burden on his shoulders, but it is also possible that he lost not only "a senior partner," but also a political challenge that has been with him for decades.

Without Rabin, Peres seems like he has lost his joy of life; like he has no reason to get up in the morning — not only because he has no one to trust or admire, but also because he has no one to bash. About a year ago, when he came with Rabin to Washington for his historic meeting with King Husayn, the former prime minister lashed out at him for no apparent reason, turned him into a punching bag, and humiliated him. Peres was hurt, but still at his best.

Now, when his rule is unchallenged, Peres feels old and tired. He looks around him, at the ministers around the cabinet table, and they all seem a size too small for him. He is bored. When I jokingly asked Peres' aides which of the ministers will be sent into space as part of the new agreement with the Americans, they cynically said: Why send them into space; their heads are in the clouds as it is.

Trying to fight back, the ministers adopted Rabin's old nickname for Peres, calling him an IS (indefatigable saboteur). Very funny. Whom can he sabotage? Peres was so tired that he fell asleep during some of the ceremonies thrown in his honor. Now that he has no one to share the cake with, it is simpler but less interesting.

This is not the man for whom the Washington sun shone. If he wants to live up to expectations, he will have to sweat again. He will have to convince the Americans that he is a reliable and true partner, and that he is not signalling to the Europeans behind the American's backs. If he does, the pot will be waiting for him the next time he goes to the United States. Washington is still waiting for Peres.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Peres on Talks With Syrians, Elections

TA1412131495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 14 Dec 95

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondents Dalya Ya'iri and Hanan Kristal; place not given; from the "Another Matter" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ya'iri] The banner headline in today's DAVAR RISHON quotes an anonymous senior cabinet minister as saying that in a U.S. bridging document which Christopher will relay to al-Asad, Israel recognizes Syria's sovereignty in the Golan, that a dramatic breakthrough is expected in the negotiations, and that Washington and Jerusalem expect most positive results from Christopher's visit. Can you confirm this report?

[Peres] No. There is as yet no U.S. document. Therefore, even if the minister holds an exceptionally senior position, there is no way he could know what is written in a document that has not yet been written. [passage omitted]

[Kristal] Politics is said to be all about interests. Having said that, do you believe that a special relation or chemistry was created between yourself and President Clinton, who will be running for reelection next year?

[Peres] First of all, I have very deep feelings for Clinton. I am really fond of him. I believe he has a lot of personal charm; he is an exceptional listener, very sharp, and intelligent. But, what is most important, he is a real and true friend of our people, and I have seen this time and again. The papers write all sorts of things, but they forget that I spoke with Clinton for hours upon hours even before, and that this was not my first meeting with him. I think that very nice relations emerged between us. [passage omitted]

[Ya'iri] We all remember your talking about the new Middle East, but you are now talking about regional peace. The feeling during your current visit to the United States — and this has also been noted by commentators — is that you actually told the Americans: We are now giving you more authority, power, and possibilities to intervene in the negotiations with Syria.

[Peres] If they provide us with more peace, an end to the wars, and if war really disappears from the Middle East and the Middle East goes back to being not just a place of [words indistinct due to fading phone connection], then the answer is: Yes, I am prepared to have everybody contribute whatever they can.

I know that nobody will forgive me or any of us if an opportunity for peace, if an exceptional window of opportunity, is created and we run away, hesitate, and take our time pondering the issue. Who will forgive us? We send our children, and you both know it, to do very difficult things. These youngsters endanger their lives and sometimes pay with their lives. What right do we, or do I, have not to check out such a window of opportunity so as to say farewell to wars, to end war, and perhaps to attain the last peace?

What I actually did was to link the negotiations with Syria to a broader context. This may be the last opportunity to negotiate.

[Kristal] Last before what? Before the elections?

[Peres] Give me a break with the elections. If you have any idea about what will bring about a victory in the elections, then I take my hat off to you. You do not know, and I do not know. I have seen numerous elections where the results seemed clear-cut and suddenly the situation reverted. There is wishful thinking, and there is reality. Elections are always wishful thinking, while peace usually is a reality. Therefore, all this cynicism about primaries and elections — neither you nor I know what will happen. The only thing I know is that if there is an opportunity to make peace, we should not miss it.

I also know another thing, which is actually what Yitzhaq Rabin knew: There is no free peace. Peace carries a price, and a painful one at that. Whoever does not say that is not telling the truth and is throwing sand in people's eyes. I am not trying to do that; I am telling the truth. It is true that peace carries a painful price. Every peace will always carry a price, and the price will always be painful.

[Ya'iri] Do you believe that after his shuttle trip Christopher will bring you any new proposals from the Syrian side?

[Peres] I do not think anybody can answer this question, not even me. I only think that we must try our best. I must tell you that I am surprised about the Syrian reaction. I do not think there has ever been such a Syrian reaction to Israeli proposals since the founding of the state, which is something to be reckoned with. I am attributing it not only to the Israeli initiative, but also to the Syrian wish. The Syrians are also tired of wars, and they also have a problem with attaining peace.

It actually bothers me somewhat that talk about peace is linked to the elections. Why? Do you know what impact it will have? Does any one of us know that?

[Kristal] Sir, you are the Labor Party's chairman. Party Secretary Nisim Zvili proposed to hold the party primaries at the end of April rather than on 18 June. Is

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

this acceptable to you, and if so, does this mean that there is an option of holding the general elections in the summer and that this depends on the negotiations with the Syrians?

[Peres] First, I did not exactly hear Zvili's reasons. As you know, I was busy with other issues in the last few days, and I really did not concern myself with party affairs. I will hear what Nisim said. Based on my experience, I suppose his reason was that the earliest the primaries are held the freer party members will be to cease concerning themselves with their personal careers and work on raising support for the party. Until the primaries are held, time is wasted on squabbling among members and party branches; many people are disappointed; there are many crises. I think the Likud will also be holding its primaries at around the same time, in March, which is wise. The saying goes that one does not leave behind wounded comrades in the battlefield. In this case, however, there is no other choice since not everybody will be elected and some wounded will stay behind. Therefore, it is better to leave time to allow the wounds to heal and to allow everybody to unite and go to the elections together.

[Kristal] What about pushing forward the elections?

[Peres] I see no reason for it. There are two problems with it: one has to do with a moral feeling. I would not want anybody to think that we were pushing the elections forward because our prime minister was assassinated. I would not want that; there is a limit to demagoguery.

Second, for me each day is a working day. I will not stop working because of the elections. Contrary to conventional wisdom, I believe voters would not appreciate it very much if we neglected the important political and economic work and instead engaged in an election war. It is too early for that. Election campaigns in England last two to three weeks. Why does it have to take two years or two months in Israel? [passage omitted]

Sarid, Sne Said To Oppose Peres' View of Final Agreement

TA1512104495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Dec 95 p B2

[Article by Hana Qim: "Peres and the Vision of Greater Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] As is well known, the Golan Heights was never a part of Greater Israel. It was never discussed within the context of the functional solution for the West Bank, which surfaced again last month, and was again attributed to Peres by his close associates as well as by several concerned cabinet ministers. No Israeli minister knows what exactly is the major move with Syria that is cooking in Peres' kitchen, but the smell of a functional compromise in the West Bank is already permeating.

The question is whether Uri Savir, Yosi Beilin, and Avi Gal — the only three associates who know what is happening on the Syrian track — can guess today whether Peres considers Oslo B as, more or less, the shape of the permanent agreement with the Palestinians. In his meeting with the leaders of Peace Now on 13 December, Beilin hinted that if, like him, they are interested in making the permanent agreement with the Palestinians now, they must pressure the "decisionmakers." The Peace Now heads understood that Beilin's pressures on Peres are not enough. Peres believes that the reality forming in the West Bank should not be tampered with, and that the shape of the permanent agreement will be determined as the interim agreement is being implemented. If this means that patience is needed, he will wait patiently — contrary to his view that the talks with Syria need to be accelerated.

Yosi Sarid said last week that he is not making a comparison between Peres and Rabin. In the same breath, he compared their different attitudes. "At the opening of the Knesset winter session, Rabin gave a political review of his territorial concept and presented his map. Basically, I concur with this review because I believe in the territorial solution, not the functional one [Briefly, the territorial solution entails a physical separation between Israel and the West Bank, while the functional solution favors physical contact between distinct political entities]. A functional compromise means the continuation of the status quo, which means constant friction with the Palestinians, leaving the confrontation and danger spots intact, and will continue the bad old days of believing in the integrity of Greater Israel in a little different reincarnation. This compromise leaves settlers and settlements in their place and the riffraff in the West Bank, our people intermingling with them and vice versa. It will prevent us and the Palestinians from attaining peaceful coexistence. I have always been against this attitude, and I see no reason to adopt it in my old age. After all, we went half the way in the Oslo agreement, why are we suddenly taking a new course?"

Does Peres believe in maintaining the status quo in the West Bank? "I cannot say that Peres told me as much in so many words. At the same time, I cannot say that what is shaping up does not look similar to the functional concept," Sarid twists.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Other cabinet ministers feel the same, but they would rather not go public with their sentiments as yet. Among the members of the domestic opposition to what appears to be Peres' desire — to leave the fate of the West Bank vague, mysterious, and evolving slowly and unclearly — is also Minister Efrayim Sne, who is considered a hawk. Just like Sarid, Sne feels that, ever since Rabin was murdered, he has been cut off from sources of information on the peace process. He will not say publicly what he thinks about Peres' functionalist solution for the West Bank (he opposes it, considering himself a territorialist, just like Rabin and Sarid, and favors a division and clear separation), but is willing to pronounce his opposition to what he views as "making hasty progress" on the Syrian track. He believes it has an accompanying purpose: Not to advance the Palestinian track and turn Oslo B into the permanent arrangement. If Peres fails to fill Sne in on what is happening in this track, Sne might yet turn into an opposition faction inside the cabinet.

"I have three red lines regarding the negotiations with Syria: one, a militarily defensible border; two, full normalization that goes beyond the establishment of diplomatic relations and should resemble the situation with Jordan; three, keeping the water sources in Israeli hands. If this is not realistic, then no deal," Sne says. "I hope this is Peres' direction. The fact that Rabin was murdered does not make our security demands less important. I think there are cabinet members who feel the way I do, but I am not sure they are telling Peres what they think," he says (referring to Ehud Baraq). Sne is not the only Cabinet minister who realizes that there is nothing that scares the Palestinians more than what might appear to them as an Israeli-Syrian plot against them. [passage omitted]

Golan Settlers Seek Meeting With Christopher

TA1412182595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The heads of the Golan Settlements Committee are seeking a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher when he visits Israel in the coming days. They have sent him a cable with such a request.

Our correspondent Ilan Ro'e reports that in the cable, Christopher is urged to oppose the evacuation of the settlements on the Golan Heights in order to prevent a great tragedy to the residents' civil rights.

Polls Show Majority Opposed to Golan Withdrawal

TA1512102995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tel Aviv MA'ARIV and Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 15 December both carry polls on their front pages showing that a majority of Israelis are opposed to a Golan Heights pullout, but differ on the extent of the opposition. Each report is about 200 words.

MA'ARIV's poll, carried out by the Mutagim Institute for Market Research and Public Opinion, shows that "46 percent of the public is opposed to giving up the Golan Heights in return for a peace accord, compared to 35 percent who support giving up the Golan as part of peace with Syria. The interviewees were asked: Are you in favor of a withdrawal from the Golan Heights in return for a full peace agreement with Syria similar to the agreements signed with Egypt and Jordan? The findings show that over the past two years, the gap between opponents and supporters of a withdrawal has been closing. In previous polls, the level of opposition to a Golan withdrawal, even in exchange for full peace, was between 60 and 70 percent."

The poll was "carried out this week among a representative national sample of 536 interviewees representing Israel's adult Jewish population. Some 12 percent did not know, and 7 percent refused to reply. The maximum margin of error was 4.5 percent."

In the YEDI'OT AHARONOT poll, carried out by the Dahaf Institute headed by Dr. Mina Tzemah, the interviewees were asked: "Do you believe or not believe that the Syrian president plans to reach true peace with Israel? Believe, 46 percent; Not believe, 48 percent; No reply, 6 percent.

"Are you for or against a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for full peace with Syria and adequate security arrangements? For, 42 percent; Against, 55 percent; No reply, 3 percent.

"The poll was carried out on 12 and 13 December among 503 interviewees, who constitute a representative sample of the adult population. The maximum margin of error was 4 percent."

Peres Reiterates Need To Annul Palestinian Covenant

TA1412154695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres briefed President 'Ezer Weizman on his recent talks in Washington and Rabat. Mr. Peres also

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

briefed Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn by phone.

At a meeting with the Swedish minister for international cooperation, the prime minister reiterated that unless the Palestinian Covenant was abrogated [tevutal], the peace train would grind to a halt. Peres expressed anger and indignation over the behavior of the Palestinian crowds during the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] evacuation of Nabulus.

This morning, the prime minister appointed Reserve Major General Shlomo Lahat to investigate the killing of Egyptian POW's [in the 1957 and 1967 wars], in keeping with the commitment he made to Egyptian President Mubarak at their last meeting.

Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that at a meeting of the Labor Party bureau, Peres stressed that the Palestinian Authority was doing its best to stop terrorism.

Delay in Bethlehem Withdrawal Under Consideration

TA1512055695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 15 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Senior Israeli security officials are considering delaying the withdrawal from Bethlehem, which is scheduled for Monday [18 December], by three or four days to allow for the completion of the Bethlehem bypass road. No final decision has yet been taken.

The IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] central region commander, Major General Ilan Biran, assured leaders of the local councils in Judaea and Gush 'Etzyon that the Army will not withdraw from the Jerusalem-Hebron road until the alternate route to the Bethlehem bypass road is completed.

Police Prevent PA Cultural Meeting in Jerusalem

TA1412191995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The police prevented the opening of a cultural conference organized by the Palestinian Authority [PA] at Jerusalem's al-Hakawati Theater. Yasir 'Amr, the PA official in charge of education, left the building after being ordered to do so by the police. Nabil Sha'th's deputy, Anis al-Qaq, refused to present identification papers and was detained for questioning.

Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal prohibited the holding of the conference because it constituted initiated activity by the PA.

Salmovitz Joins Likud; To Run in Elections

TA1412144495 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Dec 95 p 19

[Report by Bina Barzel]

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Atid Knesset Member [MK] Ester Salmovitz has registered as a member of the Likud and intends to run on the party's list in the next Knesset elections.

Salmovitz needs special authorization from Binyamin Netanyahu to run on the party's list since the Likud's regulations stipulate that all new members must have belonged to the movement for at least nine months before becoming eligible to present their candidacy for an official post. However, the same regulations also permit the movement's chairman to disregard this rule under certain conditions.

According to Salmovitz, she has spoken with Netanyahu and he will let her compete. The fact that Salmovitz will join the group vying for the four safe slots reserved for women has already sparked opposition in the Likud.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Oil Pipeline Project With Iraq 'Suspended'

MM1512100795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Dec 95 p 9

[Report by Salah Hazin: "Suspension of Jordanian-Iraqi Pipeline Reported"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Jordanian press sources have said that the implementation of the pipeline project between Jordan and Iraq has been suspended. The sources, citing Samih Darwazah, Jordanian energy and mineral resources minister, attributed the suspension of the project to "reasons linked to the blockade imposed on Iraq." The AL-MAJD weekly quoted Darwazah as saying that a political disagreement had occurred between the companies intending to carry out the project and western states' governments opposed to Iraq.

The second reason, according to the weekly, is the financial aspect of the project. Sources in the energy and mineral resources ministry told AL-HAYAH that the pipeline project between Jordan and Iraq has not entered the implementation stage, but was only a project postponed until the international embargo is lifted.

The sources said that Jordanian officials had repeatedly announced that the implementation of the project depended on the lifting of sanctions on Iraq, and until then Jordan's supply of Iraqi oil will keep coming in tank trucks from Iraq to Jordan.

Some 2,000 trucks and tankers transport Jordan's oil and fuel supplies from Iraq to the oil refinery in al-Zarqa', east of Amman, where Iraqi oil is refined and its by-products are sold on Jordanian markets.

Jordan's oil needs are estimated at some 70,000 barrels per day, of which 50,000 are crude oil and 20,000 fuel.

A Jordanian delegation is expected to travel to Baghdad to discuss the continuing supply of Iraqi oil to Jordan, as mentioned earlier, whereby the Iraqi oil supply operation is governed by an agreement between Iraq and Jordan, renewable at the beginning of each year.

The oil pipeline project between Iraq and Jordan was proposed for the first time about a year ago, but was put aside before reemerging last August when Samih Darwazah visited Iraq and agreed with Iraqi officials to revive the project, estimated at a total cost of nearly $1.4 billion. The project requires laying a 600-km pipeline from al-Hadithah in the northwest of Iraq to al-Zarqa', where Jordan's only oil refinery is located.

This is considered the first phase of the project, while the second phase requires laying a pipeline from al-Zarqa' to al-'Aqabah, where a new oil refinery will be built.

Energy Minister Comments on Project

JN1512112595 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 11 Dec 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Samih Darwazah, minister of energy and mineral resources, has announced suspension of the oil pipeline project between Jordan and Iraq for reasons linked to the economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

Darwazah added a political disagreement had occurred between the companies intending to carry out the project and Western governments opposed to Iraq. He said the financial aspect was the secondary reason for suspending the project, which was expected to replace the process of trucking Iraqi oil to Jordan, noting that this projects costs $300 million, which is not available.

However, Minister Darwazah said that Jordan continues to import Iraqi oil, saying: We have no plans to obtain our oil needs from other states. He stressed that this is not justifiable.

It is worth mentioning that Jordan gets some 70,000 barrels of crude oil from Iraq per day.

Darwazah said that his country has received an offer from Saudi Arabia to supply oil without any political conditions, and that the offer is based on commercial considerations. He said that Jordan has not yet informed Saudi Arabia of whether it intends to approve its proposal. [passage omitted]

Senator Views Restrictions on Opposition

JN1412121295 Amman THE STAR in English 14-21 Dec 95 , p 3

["Excerpts" of interview with 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, senator in the Upper House of the Parliament and member of the Executive Committee of the Islamic Action Front, by correspondent Ra'd al-'Abid; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [al-'Abid] The press, professional associations, and opposition parties came under Royal criticism during the past two months. In that sense, how do view the political situation in the country today?

['Arabiyat] No doubt that Jordan and all the region are living a very crucial phase that needs maximum carefulness and coherence. At the same time we have to safeguard the principles of the Umma [Nation] because it is as important as state security. The country and the Umma were established on these principles.

Jordan started the democratic process in 1989 and as a result a positive opposition was established, an

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

opposition that works for the good of the country and the Umma.

But some have infiltrated this process. They do not believe in freedom and are not qualified to led the process, and they are not accepted by the people.

This demands a review of the issue of the opposition, while underlining the importance of its presence. The situation is very dangerous and it needs serious thinking and wisdom.

Our people are very sensitive towards tampering with the democratic process and is sensitive to the past experiment.

We believe there must be cooperation between the Government, and the opposition so we can confront the dangerous challenges that we are facing. The points of views that are said here and there are expressions of the painful situation, but what we need the most now is wisdom.

[Al-'Abid] How do view the suggested amendments of the Press and Publication law?

['Arabiyat] All laws concerning public liberties were ratified in the 11th Parliament, including the press law. We need to broaden public liberties laws, we need to safeguard such law and not to decrease them. We are proud of these laws and we are also proud that the martial law era is behind us. We believe that public confidence can be strengthened through public liberties, dialogue and positive opposition. Such issues will secure individual rights and society at the same time. Preserving public liberties is the basic issue of freedom of this country. We are proud of what we achieved at the public liberties level and we reject any attempt to control its proliferation. The capital of this country are public liberties and preserving the dignity of its people. We hope such capital will continue to increase.

[Al-'Abid] But the government is moving in the opposite direction by suggesting controversial amendments. Isn't it in fact trying to scale down the limits of these liberties?

['Arabiyat] Nothing can pass (in parliament) without discussion, and no law can be adopted without passing first through official institutions, Lower and Upper House. If we adhere to the Constitution and to laws then we will secure our achievements.

[Al-'Abid] What about the Professional Associations issue?

['Arabiyat] If there are some who are fearful of Professional Associations, then they are fearful of the right to free expression. I say this is no excuse because these associations are ruled by laws and these laws do not differ from other laws that govern our way of life. Any violation of these laws by professional associations or the state or by any individual can be judged in a court of law.

[Al-'Abid] During a televised debate between the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, and Dr. 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah of the IAF, some said that the opposition missed a rare opportunity to present its case in public and appeared to give in to Government rebuttal. Do you agree with that?

['Arabiyat] You pointed out to the debate which included two brothers, one from the opposition, the other from the Government. The opposition stand was strong, clear, and logical. The Government agreed to all the notes of Dr. al-'Akayilah, the Government articulated its view too, and I agree that Mr. al-Rawabidah was very clever. But the Government agreed with what the opposition had said, it agreed that the opposition must have the time and the space to express itself, and to be listened to. This is good for the whole country, we believe. The more freedom of expression for the opposition, the more strength for the society. The more you muzzle mouths, the more weakness and backwardness you get.

[Al-'Abid] How serious are the differences within the Muslim Brotherhood movement, which became clear from the absence of two Islamic deputies from the House Speaker elections?

['Arabiyat] There are no differences in the sense of a conflict, but the differences were within the freedom of expression and pluralism. First, deputy Hammam al-Sa'id was in Saudi 'Arabia for 'Umra [minor pilgrimage]—this was known to the Islamic Bloc in the Lower House. Dr. al-'Akayilah, went to Sudan for a private business and he informed the Islamic Bloc that he will adhere to the decision of the Bloc. The news that talked about conflicts within our ranks are mere exaggerations and have no place within the party. There were differences on the participation in the Government, but they were private points of view. Now, we are in consensus concerning that point and that not to participate in the Government during this time in particular. Everybody agrees on that, despite individual points of view, which is healthy and we are proud of it. Everybody obeys, if it is an institutional decision in the Jama'a [group]. If we have different points of view, it is only natural.

[Al-'Abid] How do you feel about the election of the House Speaker and his deputies, where the opposition and the Islamic Bloc in particular lost all the seats?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

['Arabiyat] The opposition was expanded to 33, two were absent from the Islamic Bloc, it is now 35, which means five votes closer to making half of the Lower House. For us it is good and natural size of the opposition. The Islamic Bloc is comprised of 17 deputies, they got 35 votes, twice their size, these are good results especially against a Government and party coalition, the opposition stands in front of this coalition with little difference in votes.

[Al-'Abid] How do you feel about the arrest of the president of the Engineers Association Mr. Layth Shubaylat?

['Arabiyat] We hoped the issue will not go that far—I mean the arrest of a former deputy and president of the Engineers Association, but since it happened we demand a just trial.

[Al-'Abid] Many have criticized the Government's policy towards Arab reconciliation. How do evaluate the country's foreign policy today?

['Arabiyat] When we have the conviction that our position is strong and we have a coherent and confident local situation, then we will be with our Umma and we will not fear anybody. We did so during the post Gulf War period when most of Arab countries were against us, but our position was correct, it was pro-Umma and against the foreign alliance. We were alone and with very little— but we were strong. Now we see cracks and contradictions in the Arab situation. We hope that such a situation will not affect us in Jordan. We hope also that the current process will be towards more freedom of word so we will repel who wanted to harm the country at any time.

[Al-'Abid] News say that Jordan will host a conference for the Iraqi opposition. How do you see that?

['Arabiyat] I do not think so, because I do not find it serving the good of the country or the opposition.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Speaker Criticizes U.S. for Ignoring Country

NC1512080395 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri has made a statement on domestic and regional developments. He told editors doyen Milhim Karam and Editors Association members that he proposed to President Ilyas al-Hirawi that the Syrian-Lebanese Higher Council meet after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour.

Birri responded to remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres', saying they are a ploy to separate the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. [passage omitted]

He said Christopher's tour of the region is important but he criticized the United States for ignoring Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Buwayz: Syria Not To Negotiate Nation's Affairs

NC1512081495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Pending the results of talks between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said a statement by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres contained no practical proposals. Our correspondent 'Afifah Fa'ur reports:

[Begin Fa'ur recording] A few hours before U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrives in Damascus to work on the positive signs in the region to revive the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, Foreign Minister Fariz Buwayz said the Lebanese authorities are the only party qualified to negotiate and discuss Lebanon's rights in the peace process. Accordingly, Israeli Prime Minister Peres' refuting a statement — that a call was made to Syria to negotiate the issues of water and economic ties on Lebanon's behalf — is a maneuver intended to create a conflict and race between Lebanon and Syria. He said this is out of the question for Lebanon.

Buwayz said that Peres' stance on the peace process is no more than a media campaign and that we must await the results of Secretary Christopher's visit to learn the proposals that have not yet appeared in the media. He emphasized the need to separate the optimistic atmosphere and seemingly positive proposals, which, publicly at least, contain no practical or objective ideas, and practical proposals on the basis of which the negotiations can resume.

Buwayz noted that the U.S. sponsor has not briefed Lebanon on recent contacts regarding the peace negotiations. He said efforts were made concerning the Syrian track. He noted that Lebanon does not object to talks [between the United States and Syria] regarding Syrian issues and then with Lebanon regarding Lebanese issues. Buwayz stressed that the Israeli acts of aggression against the south are not new. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Al-Hariri's Office Denies Reports on Meetings

NC1412205195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's office has denied reports published by the AKHBAR AL-YAWM NEWS AGENCY today. Citing informed sources, the agency said Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri held meetings with French officials to facilitate a visit by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam to France. He also held with contacts with European, U.S., and Arab sources regarding a proposal by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres for a peace agreement with Lebanon.

The prime minister's office asked the various media services to be accurate in their reporting.

Cuban Official Arrives, Meets President al-Hirawi

NC1412181695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi today met with Pedro Prieto, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers, who was accompanied by the Cuban ambassador in Lebanon. Prieto conveyed to President al-Hirawi greetings from Cuban President Fidel Castro and congratulations on the extension of his term in office.

The Cuban delegation is scheduled to sign an agreement to promote bilateral economic cooperation and encourage investment at the Finance Ministry this evening before leaving for Havana tomorrow morning.

Signs Agreement, Departs

NC1512091395 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pedro Prieto, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers, left Beirut for Havana this morning. The chairman of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce and Industry stayed in Lebanon to continue his meetings.

Pedro Prieto and the Cuban ambassador to Lebanon yesterday visited President Ilyas al-Hirawi and conveyed greetings from President Fidel Castro and congratulations on the extension of his presidential term. They reviewed bilateral relations.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The Cuban official and Fu'ad Sinyurah, minister of state for financial affairs, signed an agreement encouraging and protecting investment between the two countries.

Hizballah Leader Interviewed on Various Issues

NC1412082595 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 29 Nov 95 p 12

["Exclusive" interview with Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, secretary general of Hizballah, by correspondent Jamileh Kadivar, in Lebanon; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Kadivar] People are saying Hizballah has voted to retain the al-Hirawi government contrary to the vote by independent parliamentary deputies. What do you say?

[Nasrallah] In view of our political tenets, we do not favor extending the current president's term, but our view stems from the circumstances we are currently facing in the region, the threats against Syria and Lebanon, and the increasing pressure by the United States and Israel following extensive Hizballah operations against the Israeli armed forces, because they consider the Lebanese Government responsible.

As time passes, the conditions in the region become more complicated and critical. Such sensitive circumstances demand that Lebanon coordinate its stances with Syria. If Lebanon were to remain alone, the United States and Israel could make it succumb to immense pressure.

It is in Lebanon's favor to have extensive coordination and cooperation with Syria. Yet we have witnessed the extension of President al-Hirawi's term, and, in view of his experience, Syria's stance, and the regional situation, this was a suitable and expedient measure. We are different from the independent deputies; we are directly pitted against Israel while they are not in that situation.

[Kadivar] The closeness between Hizballah and the government has two aspects which can be positive and negative. What is your opinion in this regard?

[Nasrallah] What has transpired is not endorsed by the government. The Lebanese president is not the government, and has limited jurisdiction under the Constitution. He has no voice in the ministerial cabinet, therefore, we consider the extension of the president's tenure separate from our stance on the government.

[Kadivar] People say there is a possibility of Hizballah being included in the Cabinet. Two names have been mentioned. Do you endorse this?

[Nasrallah] This issue is not relevant right now. [passage omitted]

[Kadivar] What is the nature of relations among Hizballah and Amal and Parliamentary Speaker Nabih Birri?

[Nasrallah] We have a very close and naturally very cordial relationship.

[Kadivar] It appears that the relationship between Hizballah and the government, or, as you stated, with the president, is a close one. The opposite is true regarding the relationship between Amal and the government. Perhaps Amal is not very pleased with your cordial relations. How do you see this?

[Nasrallah] Previously, relations among the various groups were not very close or reliable, but in the current circumstances, in view of regional issues and Zionist plans, we are naturally striving to maintain cordial relations with all three government institutions, namely, the president, the government, and the Majles. Obviously, due to the administrative structure in Lebanon, closeness of ties with any one of these would affect relations with the others.

[Kadivar] Hizballah participated in the last parliamentary election to attain particular objectives. After three years, have you achieved your desired objectives? Which ones have you failed to attain?

[Nasrallah] Three years ago when I told a news conference about Hizballah's objectives in participating in the elections I stated that it did so to give the Resistance a voice in parliament and to have the gains of the Islamic Resistance mentioned.

Another objective was that our parliamentary presence would give Hizballah a more extensive presence and influence in the political arena in Lebanon. Our third objective was that we should stand up to the tyranny that was being inflicted on the oppressed people of Lebanon. Our fourth objective was that we should draw attention to the situation and the conditions prevailing in the deprived and oppressed regions of Lebanon during discussion to approve the annual budget.

We attained our first objective and for the first time the Resistance gained a presence in the parliament and adopted a categorical stance against the Israeli aggression. This was the first parliament to take a stand against the United States and defend the Resistance. Thus we succeeded with our first objective.

As for the second objective, parliament eliminated the misunderstandings that had cropped up between us and the various groups of the Lebanese people. Today Hizballah has a complete presence on Lebanon's political plane and vocalizes its views on every issue. Our parliamentary deputies made great efforts in this regard.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

As for the third objective, Hizballah deputies are members of the various parliamentary committees, command a serious presence in debates, and thwart the approval of tyrannical laws. As for the fourth objective, our deputies have been very active in the approval of the budget and have tried to champion the cause of the deprived. Today we are satisfied with our presence in parliament.

Naturally, deputies should perform their duties but executive affairs are the government's domain. [passage omitted]

[Kadivar] In the past few years, Hizballah has become more political, whether in its relations with the Lebanese Government or with Syria. Numerous official meetings have taken place. How do you explain this?

[Nasrallah] They have not created such circumstances. Hizballah created these opportunities; anything that takes place is in accordance with our own decision, which is to be more politically active so that we might support the Islamic Resistance. The Resistance needs political support, since this movement has a vast popular base. Political activity helps us to support our own people.

There are some who are apprehensive about Hizballah's political activity, since they thought it would harm Resistance activities, but the opposite happened. Jihadi activities have intensified each year and the Resistance has spread qualitatively and quantitatively, something that Israel has confirmed.

[Kadivar] How do you see the Arab-Israeli talks?

[Nasrallah] The Israelis want to complete their talks with the Palestinians. But events inside Israel, such as Rabin's assassination, will have an impact on the talks. As for talks with Syria and Lebanon, they are in abeyance or are frozen; the conditions are extremely complicated. It seems highly unlikely that Israel will agree to give whatever Hafiz al-Asad wants. It is also improbable that al-Asad will accept the conditions Israel has propounded. These complicated reasons preclude any short-term solution.

[Kadivar] Where are the main obstacles or blind spots located?

[Nasrallah] Withdrawal up to the Haziran line, the manner of the security arrangements, the size of the armed forces, the information base, Israel's perception of the Middle East, and Syria's perception of developments.

[Kadivar] As you said, things are becoming more complicated. The martyrdom of al-Shaqaqi, the killing of Yitzhaq Rabin, and the explosion at the American military headquarters in Saudi Arabia all indicate that the proponents and opponents of the peace talks have lost control. How do you see this?

[Nasrallah] From the start, we saw that the regional situation was very complex, and not just from the point of view of regional governments or nations. There are numerous other factors that affect things in the region.

The situation is no longer such that the United States gets whatever it wants in the region. Nor does Israel. There are forces in the region that affect Israel's and the United States' wishes. The United States uses all its resources to promote Israel's predominance in the region, but the opposing forces' and trends' resources are also extensive, so the United States and Israel cannot easily impose their will.

[Kadivar] Has Peres' assumption of power expedited the trend of talks?

[Nasrallah] I do not think so. When Rabin and Peres were working together they could not easily forge ahead with the peace talks. Now that serious problems have cropped up within Israeli society, no one can say that Israeli Labor party support will continue. Much of the current backing is emotional, therefore, we should wait until people's sensitivities and emotional turmoil subside so that they can think rationally. Only then can various leanings and tendencies surface. This was not merely the murder of an individual; it was the killing off of a trend.

Shim'on Peres is no more popular than Rabin in Israeli society. Peres cannot nudge the process of talks forward in the manner he says he will. Clinton personally contacted the heads of the various countries and asked them to attend Rabin's funeral. Obviously that gathering was not merely for Rabin's sake; it demonstrated support for Peres so that he might follow up the talks. If, under normal circumstances, Shim'on Peres were able to continue with the talks there would have been no need for such unusual efforts. The United States did its best to support Peres, but I do not think these concerted efforts can achieve what they are intended to achieve.

Hizballah Reportedly Hands Over Mosad Agents to Army

NC1312184495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanon's Hizballah has handed a group of [Israeli] Mosad agents to the Lebanese army. A Lebanese army soldier and his wife were seen among this group, which was seized after the assassination of Islamic Resistance martyr Sa'id Harb. The soldier was involved in the assassination, which the agents carried out last month.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Seized 'Fundamentalists' Suspected of Planning Attacks

NC1312212395 Paris AFP in English 1644 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Dec 13 (AFP) — The Lebanese army has arrested 62 Muslim fundamentalists suspected of planning attacks, a legal source said Wednesday [13 December].

The army's intelligence service, which carried out the sweep in the Syrian-controlled north of the country, is investigating a fundamentalist network which has "political ramifications," the source said.

Interior Minister Michel al-Murr told reporters that the arrests had "dismantled a network which was preparing to commit acts of violence endangering state security."

The sweep began several days ago after security services found two cars loaded with arms and explosives, maps and a list of restaurants and other outlets serving alcohol, security sources in the northern town of Tripoli said.

Investigators have found a link with bomb attacks against alcohol outlets in northern Lebanon just before Christmas and New Year in 1993 and 1994, they said.

But they added that those arrested are suspected of more than a campaign against alcohol consumption, including "planned attacks against public buildings."

Court Hears Testimonies on 1976 Murder of U.S. Envoy

NC1312184095 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Court of Cassation under Judge 'Afif 'Usayran today heard the testimonies of the two defendants accused of the 1976 murder of U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Francis Melloy. The two defendants, Basim al-Firkh and Namiq Kamal, denied the murder charges. Al-Firkh admitted that he was asked to escort the car carrying the U.S. ambassador and his two bodyguards—without knowing their identities — to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] center in Ra's al-Nab' in Beirut's Southern Suburb. Al-Firkh also admitted that Melloy's killer was PFLP security official Abu-Ahmad Yunus. Kamal denied any connection with the murder.

The court also heard the testimonies of four witnesses. It adjourned its hearings until 24 January.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Warren Christopher, Delegation Pay Visit

Arrive in Damascus

JN1512062095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 15 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Damascus last night on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, Syrian Ambassador in Washington Walid al-Mu'allim, and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Christopher Ross and embassy staff.

Meet President al-Asad

JN1512121795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the People's Palace at 1130 today. The delegation accompanying Christopher at the meeting included Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process; Mark Parris, the U.S. President's special assistant and director of Near East and South Asia Affairs at the U.S. National Security Council; and Christopher Ross, U.S. ambassador in Damascus. The meeting was attended by Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister; Muwaffaq al- 'Allaf, head of the Syrian side to the peace talks; and Walid al-Mu'allim, Syria's ambassador in Washington.

Press Views Visit

JN1512094295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 15 Dec 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BA'TH today comments on the U.S. diplomatic activity afoot to break the deadlock in the Syrian-Israeli talks, caused by Israeli obstacles, and to reassert the importance of peace and stability in a region that is the focus of the entire world.

The newspaper says Damascus has fulfilled its promises and encouraged the U.S. secretary to resume his efforts. Damascus has been loyal to peace since it accepted the resolutions of the Security Council and took part in the Madrid conference.

AL-BA'TH adds that Damascus has nothing to offer in addition to what it has already offered and pledged to do. Israel is required to carry out what its leaders say when they recognize that the Golan is Syrian territory and that they have no ambitions on Lebanese territory.

The newspaper points out that the U.S. Administration is convinced that Syria is serious, and that this seriousness is linked to all that has been accepted by the international community and major powers. In the Geneva and Damascus summits between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Clinton, President Clinton was a witness to the credibility of Syria's stand toward peace and stability in the region.

The newspaper concludes: The Israeli Government should come to the conclusion that peace is indivisible, and that the key to peace is ending occupation and guaranteeing the return of usurped rights. We hope that the U.S. secretary will have something to say about this to set things right.

In one of its commentaries today, AL-THAWRAH says: Syria has clearly declared its commitment to the principles of peace, deeming peace its strategic option. Syria publicly called for full peace in return for full Israeli withdrawal.

The newspaper adds: U.S. Secretary of State Christopher, who has begun his tour of the region, will, as always, find in Syria a cooperative, positive, and useful attitude to make the peace efforts succeed. This will also advance the peace process to enable it to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the U.S. initiative. These resolutions stipulate full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. Peace has always been a firm and principled Syrian objective.

AL-THAWRAH says peace cannot be achieved by words. It entails rights and obligations toward peace and security by the two sides in an equitable and balanced manner to achieve an equitable and viable peace.

The paper expresses hope that Christopher's tour will usher in a new era that builds the foundations of a peace based on international legitimacy. This can be achieved if the Israelis take the right road to peace.

AL-THAWRAH concludes that Syria sincerely looks forward to achieving peace. It is clear in its attitude toward peace. It wants peace on the basis of the implementation of UN resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. These resolutions provide for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH says Syria has sincerely responded to the political process and enabled it to take off. It also committed itself to the peace process and to continuing the efforts to achieve peace. Syria today welcomes the U.S. efforts to achieve peace on the Madrid framework and the land-for-peace initiative. Syria reasserts its firm principles toward a settlement and a solution. It also declares that it holds on to its national and pan-Arab rights to the restoration

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of the occupied territory of the Golan and southern Lebanon in full and return to the 4 June 1967 lines.

AL-THAWRAH says any attempt to disrupt this formula or the principles of balance, equitability, and equality in the security arrangements or leaving behind any trace of the occupation, in any form or under whatever name, is strongly rejected.

Radio: 'Specific Measures' Needed To Achieve Peace

JN1412162295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Dec 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: The U.S. Administration is undertaking a new move to activate the peace process through a new tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. We notice instantly that the said U.S. move to activate the peace process is both serious and swift. Naturally, such a move, as well as the new ideas that are now appearing in statements by Israeli politicians, particularly Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, give rise to encouraging expectations on the road to a Middle East peace. These ideas, however, still lack specific measures that must be taken if a just peace is to be achieved.

For example, the Israeli prime minister's call that each party consider the requirements of the other party differs from previous Israeli proposals. The reported new ideas appearing in some Israeli statements on peace also lack frankness, clarity, and specificity. So, these statements conflict with the UN and Security Council resolutions calling for a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan and southern Lebanon.

In other words, those who hope for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East expect some Israeli statements on peace to turn into a positive development of Israel's actual position. Such a development will narrow the gap between the Syrian and Israeli positions and will bring Israel's position on peace close to that of Syria's in line with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Needless to say, there is no party more eager to achieve a just peace than Syria, which has chosen peace as a strategic option. Syria considers the current peace process a historic opportunity, but is afraid that the current spark in this process may extinguish. It warns against missing this historic opportunity, the same way similar opportunities have been missed by previous Israeli governments.

It is not possible for one party to make peace without the other party agreeing with it to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy as a reference point for the peace process. Syria's honest desire to achieve a just peace comes from its sense of responsibility that is in line with its status in the region — a status which the Israeli prime minister himself recognized when he said that when Israel concludes peace with Syria, it wants to make sure that such peace will really be for the entire Middle East. It is well known and natural that Syria's honest desire for just peace and its persistent endeavor to achieve it in no way mean that Syria will relinquish any inch of its national soil or any of Syrian and Arab rights.

Syria's eagerness to preserve the national and pan-Arab right has established Syria's status in the region. It also constitutes the foundation of just peace, in which no party will feel wronged and in which all parties will enjoy the same equality and equitability [al-tasawi wa al-takafu'].

Al-Asad Sends Amnesty Draft Law to Assembly

JN1412173195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1610 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] To commemorate the Corrective Movement silver jubilee, President Hafiz al-Asad sent to the People's Assembly today a draft law granting a general amnesty to certain prisoners who committed crimes before 16 November 1995.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Afghanistan

Taleban Fires Missiles at Kabul Residential Areas

LD1412173795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The residential areas of Kabul city were again hit today by missiles. Bakhtar reports that this morning Benazir Bhutto's Taleban fired 10 missiles at the residential regions of Kabul city. The missiles fired today did not cause any loss of life but a number of houses were damaged.

Shells Hit Hospital

LD1412150195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, the Taleban group, once again, fired heavy weapons on the central areas of Kabul city, capital of Afghanistan.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, eight Katiyusha missiles hit a hospital and some residential regions of Kabul city which caused losses.

A source from the Defense Ministry said that the attack was launched by the Taleban group from their base in the south of Kabul.

As a result of yesterday's missile attack by the Taleban group, four people were killed in Kabul city.

India

Article Discusses Defense Needs, U.S. Arms

BK1112062995 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 9 Dec 95 p 12

[Article by HINDUSTAN TIMES diplomatic editor: "India Does Not Intend To Buy US Arms"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has neither made, nor does it intend to make, any large arms purchases from the United States to bolster its defence in view of the mounting threat from Pakistan. Therefore, any question of applying some form of sanctions on possible arms sales to India as hinted by Defence Official Bruce Riedel in Washington on Thursday [7 December], does not arise.

Informed sources point out that India has been having trouble acquiring dual-use technology from the United States under the agreement on science and technology cooperation signed in 1984. The MoU signed during Defence Secretary William Perry's visit in January thus year calls for expanded defence research and production activities "in accordance with the laws, policies and agreements of each country."

The US has, from the very beginning, been reluctant to either sell or transfer of higher technology to India. The transfer of the vintage GE-404 engine for the LCA [light combat aircraft] was approved during Reagan era, but India dragged its feet in acquiring it because of its high cost. The India side has made inquiries about certain defence items in small quantities, but no major sales have yet taken place. India has been looking for alternative sources of supply knowing full well that the Brown Amendment transfers will alter the balance of forces against it.

The Defence Policy Group and the Joint Technical Group have me since Mr Perry's visit, without getting a firm 'yes' to transfer of dual use technology. Even the technology transferred, or intended to be transferred, for the LCA is not the latest one, which will lengthen the time to develop a modern, sophisticated front line machine.

Even under the 1984 agreement, India was supposed to get super computers, communications equipment, instrumentation, composite materials, high performance ferrous and non-ferrous alloys and optics. But the flows were slow even though India guaranteed that the technologies licensed to it would be restricted to end users and utilised only for the purposes approved in each case. Safeguards against leakage of technology were also given.

It is only after the threshold for computers and other technologies was raised for the former Soviet bloc countries that India too was offered certain hitherto restricted items. But, in order to keep up pressures as regards nuclear non-proliferation and Missile Technology Control Regime issues, transfer of real sophisticated technologies has not taken place.

On the contrary, even Russia has been forced to cancel its deal with ISRO for transfer of cryogenic engine technology and also told not to erect a mega nuclear power station in India. Having advanced in computer technology and developed its own parallel computer, India has not shown interest in another brand of supercomputer.

The Indian Government regards transfer of nearly one billion dollars worth of military equipment to Pakistan under the Brown Amendment, a major irritant to Indo-US relations. It had hoped that after the Rao-Clinton meeting, where it was decided to build a new partnership relations between the two countries would steadily improve in the political, defence, economic and science and technology field.

The US stand on Kashmir has come to be viewed with a degree of suspicion ever since Ms Robin Raphel took

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

charge as Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia and made pronouncements to suggest that Washington had a dire a interest in the situation in the State.

There is a feeling her statements tended to undo the work being done by the Ambassador Frank Wisner, in promoting Indo-US relations. Mr Wisner supported holding of election in Jammu and Kashmir and advised the militants to participate in the political process.

India feels concerned over the long-term implications of the new security relationship being forged between the US and Pakistan, under which Islamabad will receive arms under different pretexts to carry out Washington's political objectives in Afghanistan, Central and West Asia and against Iran.

For encouraging recruitment and training of Taleban who have launched an invasion of Afghanistan as Ms Raphel has done, Pakistan is sought to be rewarded. Home Minister S.B. Chavan's blunt talk reflects the Government's anxiety and concern over moves to promote instability in the sub-continent by triggering an arms race. Explanations by Ms Raphel and Mr Reidel that arms transfers to Pakistan will not upset the military balance are rejected by New Delhi.

Article on Raphel Remarks, U.S. Kashmir Policy

BK1312085595 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 12 Dec 95 p 9

[Article by K.P. Nayar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] AMONG the less remembered of Robin Raphel's statements at her infamous Washington briefing, where she questioned Kashmir's accession to India, is one in which the US official held forth on how easy it is to create a "storm" in New Delhi.

Whatever else may be said about President Bill Clinton's Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, this statement testifies to her deep and practical understanding of how the political system and public opinion can be manipulated in this country.

What Ms Raphel said in her House of Representatives testimony last week about the inadvisability of a plebiscite in Kashmir must be viewed against this understanding of how perceptions in New Delhi and Islamabad can be changed almost at will from Washington.

About three years ago, the historical division of the US State department commissioned a study of statements on Kashmir that had been made by successive American administrations over a period of three decades. What this study established was revealing!

It showed a remarkable consistency in America's public position on Kashmir over the entire period under review. Much more significantly, it showed a spurt in either a favourable or an unfavourable reaction in New Delhi or Islamabad every time a statement from Washington was interpreted as being supportive or otherwise of one of the two traditional South Asian adversaries.

In other words, if an American official made a statement such as the one Ms Raphel made against the idea of a plebiscite, it was immediately picked up by the Indian media and politicians as a change in policy, favouring New Delhi.

On the other hand, if a US official pleaded for a bigger role for the UN cease fire monitors in Kashmir or called for international observers for elections in Jammu and Kashmir, these statements were immediately picked up by the Press and politicians in Pakistan as signs of a US tilt towards Islamabad.

For this reason, John Malott, who was the first director of the South Asian bureau before Ms Raphel became its Assistant Secretary, said in one of his last Congressional testimonies that the best thing for America was to simply shut up on Kashmir, lest any statement from Washington inevitably upset relations either with India or Pakistan.

In the context of Ms Raphel's latest testimony on Capitol Hill, what is important is that her repudiation of a plebiscite does not constitute any change in US policy. Indeed, this is not the first time in recent years that US officials have come out against the idea of a plebiscite when they have been specifically asked about UN resolutions on Kashmir at Congressional hearings.

Yet, Ms Raphel and the US administration as a whole have gained significant mileage from her well-timed and carefully-worded disavowal of the plebiscite idea at this juncture.

If not for any other reason, the US cannot support any plans for a plebiscite simply because, according to the UN resolution of 1948, the first step is for Pakistan to vacate its occupation of Kashmir.

This, according to Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, is the unfinished business in Kashmir and the only aspect of the dispute between India and Pakistan over the northern State that remains to be settled.

In the post-Cold War period, Pakistan sees itself as a front line state of the West against religious fundamentalism. The US, for its part, sees Pakistan as an ally and its proxy in a drive to win over and influence the Muslim-majority states in Central Asia.

It would not be in America's interest at this stage to get Pakistan to vacate its occupation of Kashmir in order to

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

pave the way for a plebiscite. There will be no takers in Pakistan for the idea of vacating Pakistani-occupied Kashmir (POK) and any such action is bound to lead to the collapse of a civilian government in Islamabad, irrespective of whether it is headed by Benazir Bhutto or Nawaz Sharif.

There is yet another reason why Pakistan would be wary of anything that would require its forces to withdraw from POK, which they have occupied for 47 years.

When Ms Raphel was in Pakistan recently before travelling to India, the Prime Minister of POK, Abdul Qaiyum Khan, met her and proposed that the whole of Kashmir should revert to its pre-1947 status and be jointly administered by India and Pakistan.

Ms Bhutto is increasingly getting worried about elements on both sides of Kashmir who are talking the language of independence—the idea that Kashmiris should chart their own future, independent of either India or Pakistan. She would naturally be anxious to see that proposals such as the one made by Mr Khan to Ms Raphel are suppressed he fore they get off the ground.

If Ms Raphel's reiteration last week of America's previously stated position on a plebiscite has any significance at all, it is that it amounts to an implied rejection of Mr Khan's proposal about Kashmir reverting to its pre-1947 status.

Instead of feeling elated over any non-existent shift in US policy on Kashmir, what should engage the attention of the Indian leadership is the continuing attempt in Washington to be evenhanded in dealing with New Delhi and Islamabad.

Two latest instances of such evenhandedness should be cause for concern. The first among these is a study by the Congressional Research Service (CRS), a think tank of the US Congress which is currently considering ideas for placing both India and Pakistan on a terrorist watch list.

The second is a Congressional testimony by Deputy Assistant Secretary for Defence Bruce Riedel equating India and Pakistan on the question of American arms sales. Mr Riedel's concern that any US arms for India would "alter the existing military balance" in South Asia should be further food thought for Home Minister S B Chavan, who has already won considerable public acclaim for his statement in Parliament on US policy in Kashmir.

Kashmir Leader: U.S. Not Interested in Normalcy

BK1412160795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Former union Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed says there is a circumstantial evidence that the United States is not interested in normalization of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a press conference in Jammu today, he said the United States should have taken bold action against Pakistan as it did against Libya for encouraging militancy. It is unfortunate that instead of taking action against Islamabad, Washington decided to provide another installment of sophisticated arms to Pakistan, he added.

Daily Views Delhi, U.S. Views on Kashmir Vote

BK1312131595 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 9 Dec 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Plebiscite and the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is often said about Robin Raphel, U.S. assistant secretary of state, that her views or statements on the Kashmir issue invariably reflect her personal opinion and should not be deemed to reflect the U.S. Administration's policies. The fact is, however, that no visiting responsible U.S. official could ever express views that have not been approved in advance by the U.S. State Department. Raphel's latest statement also reflects this fact.

According to Raphel, the situation in Kashmir has undergone so drastic a change that the final decision cannot be made under the resolution passed by the United Nations. Her statement might cause some to detect a change in U.S. policy on Kashmir. The fact that she said so while giving her statement before the U.S. Senate Committee for South Asia also conjures up this hope, because she was delivering the official view of the U.S. Administration before the committee.

Any such hope is bound to be false, however, because it is based on an incorrect assessment. Raphel has not said any thing new; for many years the United States has not even referred to a plebiscite in Kashmir. On the contrary, shortly after assuming his duties as the US Ambassador in India, Mr. Wisner had specifically declared that the plebiscite was not the only way out because there could be many other ways to find a solution to the Kashmir problem.

Even before Raphel's latest statement, a former U.S. ambassador in India had also rejected the plebiscite option. Clearly, the United States believed that India would also reject this option because of the UN resolution's

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

precondition that Pakistan vacate that part of Kashmir that is in its possession illegally. Since Pakistan is not ready to accept this condition, India cannot be forced under international law to hold a plebiscite in Kashmir. So this statement does not lead to the inference that the United States supports India's stand on the Kashmir tangle.

Even before George Bush hit the scene, the United States desired to establish a political order in Kashmir in which it could have direct political or military connections with Kashmir. The United States only has two options: Either Kashmir goes to Pakistan, or it becomes independent. Pakistan cannot acquire Kashmir without war, however, and even a war does not ensure this outcome. This is the reason why the Clinton administration has always declared Kashmir to be a separate nation, apart from either Pakistan's or India's hold. Hence, U.S. officials question the validity of Kashmir's merger with India, while the United States insists on inviting representatives of the Kashmiri people to official negotiations with India and Pakistan. The human rights issue is repeatedly raised at negotiations to confirm this status of Kashmir.

For the last couple of months, however, even the United States has also begun to support the demand for maximum autonomy for Kashmir; at least this is what Dr. Farookh Abduallah claims. It would be wrong, however, to assess that there is any apparent contradiction between the formal and informal statements issued by the United States at this stage. The fact that maximum autonomy would be the first stage in giving total independence to Kashmir is the danger now realized very well by the Indian Government, albeit belatedly.

Hence, the home minister's anti-U.S. statement even took a risk on the economic front. The gravity of this statement can be assessed in light of Commerce Minister Chidambaram's warning while addressing a meeting of the Joint Indian-U.S. Trade Commission that these remarks could have an adverse impact on economic relations between the two countries, and also by Indian Trade Representative R.P. Goenka's statement that any economic gain at the cost of the country's sovereignty could not be a good bargain.

Radio Says U.S. Interest in Kashmir Not Selfless

BK1212122195 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 12 Dec 95

[Commentary by K.G. Joglekar: "America Recognizes Reality in Kashmir"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A recent statement by the American assistant secretary of state, Robin Raphel, virtually ruling out plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir has caused a flutter in Pakistan. This is understandable. For more than 40 years Pakistan has raised the Kashmir question at every international forum and has asked for a plebiscite. She, however, never outlined the parameters of the plebiscite. Was it to be a plebiscite in the whole of the state? If so, was Pakistan prepared to hold a plebiscite in the area now under her illegal occupation; and what about the northern areas of Jammu and Kashmir which she had occupied soon after partition of the subcontinent in 1947; and what about the portion that Pakistan had ceded to China; or was the plebiscite to be restricted to the Indian side only?

Spelling out these options was inconvenient. It was much more profitable to talk of the right of the people of the state and demand a plebiscite. Pakistan tried to hoodwink the world by ignoring two facts which were inconvenient for her. First, the offer of consulting the people of the state was made by India unilaterally in keeping with her democratic traditions. Second, this was to be done when law and order had been restored and the invaders sent by Pakistan had been driven out. Pakistan has not fulfilled the second condition and has tried its best to prevent a return to normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the days of the Cold War when Washington was trying to build a front against Communism, it found in Pakistan a willing ally. It, therefore, supplied Pakistan with military aid and supported Pakistan on the Kashmir question under the guise of furthering the rights of the people of Kashmir. In doing so, Washington ignored Pakistan's record of human rights. It also ignored the basic fact that the accession of the state of Jammu and Kashmir to India was complete and the state was a part of the Indian Union.

Two years ago, the United States took the strange position that the whole of Jammu and Kashmir was a disputed territory. This assertion in total disregard of proven facts naturally angered India. The reaction had a background. There have always been doubts in India about Washington's motives. The home minister of India, Mr. S.B. Chavan, gave expression to these doubts in Parliament earlier this month. To put it bluntly, Washington would like to have a foothold in the subcontinent, preferably in Jammu and Kashmir, so as to keep a watch on newly independent Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union and China.

The interest taken by Washington in Kashmir is not thus totally free of self-interest. Pakistan was deceiving itself when it thought that the support that Washington gave her and her demand for a plebiscite was motivated by selflessness. The declaration that plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir was ruled out has naturally come as a

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

shock to the rulers and people of Pakistan. But, then it will be naive to interpret the American statement as a change of heart. What Washington is trying to do is to keep both India and Pakistan on tenterhooks about its real intentions. A pat today and a push the next day keeps everyone guessing. The only solution, as India has stressed time and again, is for India and Pakistan to sit around the conference table and resolve all outstanding disputes. This was the spirit in which the two countries signed the Simla agreement. That agreement took the Kashmir question away from the international arena to the conference table; and as for a plebiscite, as long ago as 1955, the then home minister, Govind Ballabh Pant, had said that was ruled out because of the changed conditions. And then can the grandsons and granddaughters exercise a right which their ancestors should have exercised but could not, because Pakistan did not fulfill the basic condition that it first vacate all the areas under her illegal occupation?

Indian, PRC Troops Pull Back From 4 Outposts

BK1412130795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and China have pulled back their troops from four forward outposts located in the Sumdorong Chu Valley of Arunachal Pradesh. The simultaneous move follows an agreement reached between the two countries in August this year. This information was given by the minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, in the Rajya Sabha today.

PRC's 'Burgeoning' Defence, White Paper Viewed

BK1012080895 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Dec 95 p 10

[Article by Vinod Taksal: "China's Policy of Positive Defense"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Chinese mandarins are adept in saying one thing and doing quite another, and never without a purpose. It is not, therefore, coincidental that China's overt warming up to India has been accompanied by a chilling bluntness about its national defence doctrine. The militarist view reflected in Beijing's first ever white paper on China's military strategy and security perceptions is in stark contrast to the warmth exhibited by Mr Qiao Shi, the third highest ranking Chinese leader, during his recent visit to New Delhi.

Mr Qiao's visit, the first by the People's National Congress chairman since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, was a landmark in the recent bilateral exchanges. Mr Qiao made all the appropriate noises about improving bilateral ties so that "problems left over from history" could be resolved peacefully to mutual satisfaction. By visiting Bangalore and Bombay — the technological and commercial capitals of the country — Mr Qiao also lent force to his exhortation that "quite satisfactory" progress in bilateral commerce and economic relations should be followed by tapping the vast potential that still exists.

Powerful Figure

Mr Qiao's remarks cannot be dismissed as routine, diplomatic niceties. With President Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng, he forms the ruling trinity in the post Deng era. Besides Parliament, which under him is emerging as an independent entity Mr Qiao also heads China's powerful internal security apparatus. Earlier, as the person in charge of the ruling Communist party's international liaison department for a decade until 1985 he has had a greater say in shaping China's international relations than its foreign ministry. It was at his initiative that (China sent a fraternal delegation for the Congress centenary celebrations in December 1985, which marked the first step in the normalisation process.

The degree of bonhomie Mr Qiao exhibited during his India visit, however, is not quite in keeping with the delineation of the Chinese defence policy and military thought in the white paper. That document is significant more for what it does not say than what it does.

While stressing that the Chinese constitution reflects China's "guiding principles of peace and development", the white paper significantly does not explain China's involvement in a series of conflicts. It does not even mention the Korean war in the 50's, the aggression against India in 1962, the border skirmish with the Soviet Union a few years later, and the invasion of Vietnam in 1979 "Regional conflicts must be fairly and rationally resolved and force or threat of force should not be used in international relations" is the fine principle that the white paper proclaims. But it is not mirrored in China's forcible constructions on Mischief Island, in dispute with the Philippines, or in Beijing's threat to take Taiwan by military force if necessary.

However, the white paper does not suggest that China has renounced territorial claims to almost each of its neighbours. Nor does it outline what steps China has initiated to resolve the border disputes "through peaceful means". Such confidence building measures as the Sino-Russian joint statement. on no-first use of nuclear weapons and no targeting of strategic weapons against each other, or the Sino-Indian accord on maintaining peace and tranquillity along the line of actual control are welcome. But these clearly are products of bilateralism. China alone cannot claim credit for them.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The point is China obviously does not see its armed conflicts or its aggressions in support of its territorial claims as wars or breach of high principles it claims to espouse. The white paper terms China's as "a policy of positive defence", and asserts that there will be no slackening of China's military capabilities. The paper has justified the size of China's standing army as well as $ 6,626 billion defence expenditure, up by an average of 6.22 per cent over the 1979-94 period, on grounds of its national security needs.

A Posturing

The burgeoning defence spending, resumed nuclear testing, deployment of long-range strategic missiles, and unresolved border dispute — coupled with the supply of M-l I missiles and transfer of nuclear weapons designs and technology to Pakistan — cannot be reassuring to India. Nor indeed can these facts induce faith in China's talk of "unilateral" measures for disarmament and stricter control on transfer of sensitive materials and technology.

Seen in this context, Mr Qiao Shi's warmth, the stress on a certain degree of convergence of views, and exhortation to "look beyond the end of the century" and take full advantage of the economic opportunities can only be viewed as a posturing. That stance may suit India if reduction of border tensions and the concentration of troops facilitates economic reforms and reconstruction. But then, as the white paper makes it explicit, China will not brook any threat to its perceived national interests, including economic interests. Eventually, that is the bottom line, the present "Hindi Chini bhai bhai" [Indians and Chinese are brothers] mood in Beijing notwithstanding.

Envoy: Moscow To Continue Arms Supply to Delhi

BK1412045195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia says it will launch new projects with India to elevate joint cooperation between the two countries. Addressing a news conference in Moscow yesterday, the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, said Moscow is committed to implementing all the Indo-Russian projects planned earlier.

Addressing a news conference in Calcutta yesterday, the Russian ambassador to India, Mr. Anatoliy Dryukov, said his country will continue to supply arms and ammunition to India. Russia had never supplied arms to Pakistan and there was no reason for Russia to reverse the present situation, he said.

The Russian deputy minister for culture, Mr. (Shudkov), said India and Russia will sign another cultural agreement for exchange of artists, performers, and holding of festivals.

Armenian President Heads Delegation on State Trip

Departs for Trip With Delegation

NC1312150495 Yerevan SNARK in English 1025 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, December 13 (SNARK)—Today, the Armenian governmental delegation headed by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan left for India on a four day visit.

The Presidential Press Office informed SNARK that a number of interstate and intergovernmental agreements such as a large interstate friendship and cooperation agreement, are expected to be signed. Concrete arrangements should promote to develop and extend trade and economic ties between the two countries.

Armenia's Foreign Minister Vahan Papazian, Industry Minister Ashot Safarian and other officials are members of the delegation.

According to Papazian, there are no any political obstacles for boosting Armeno-Indian relations. During a meeting with reporters he noted that Armenia is interested in cooperating with India in economic and scientific fields. Communication difficulties caused by the blockade can be overcome owing to good-neighborly relations between Armenia and Iran.

Arrives; Schedule Detailed

BK1412050895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Armenian president, Mr. Levon Ter-Petrosyan, has arrived in New Delhi on a five-day state visit to India. He is being accorded a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] this morning. The Armenian president will hold official level talks with the prime minister, Mr. Narasima Rao. The two sides will sign a number of agreements on bilateral cooperation. The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, will host a banquet in his honor tonight. The Armenian president is scheduled to address the captains of Indian industry at a function organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry tomorrow.

Holds Talks With Rao, Signs Accords

BK1512124095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Armenia today signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation as a major

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

step toward closer ties. They have signed two other agreements on cultural cooperation and technical and economic assistance. This follows talks between the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the visiting Armenian president, Mr. Levon Ter-Petrosyan, in New Delhi today.

The two sides also decided to have a tripartite trade and transit agreement with Iran. The discussions covered several regional and international matters. The treaty of friendship and cooperation reiterates the desire of the two nations to develop cooperation in wide-ranging areas and also in combating terrorism, drug trafficking and other crimes. Earlier today, the visiting dignitary was accorded a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House].

Extends Support on Kashmir, UNSC Candidature

BK1512053095 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Republic of Armenia extended its support for India's stand on Kashmir. At a high-level meeting in New Delhi today, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the visiting Armenian president, Mr. Levon Ter-Petrosyan, have agreed to set up a joint commission to further strengthen bilateral relations. Our correspondent, E. Krishna Rao, has a report.

[Begin Krishna Rao recording] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the president of the Republic of Armenia, Mr. Levon Ter-Petrosyan, have reviewed bilateral relations between the two countries. In a one-to-one meeting held at Hyderabad House both the leaders discussed wide-ranging issues and expressed satisfaction. Both the countries agreed for a tripartite trade and transit agreement with Iran. Later, at a high-level meeting, the Armenian president expressed his country's support for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council [UNSC]. A treaty on friendship and cooperation was signed between the two countries. Prime Minister Mr. Rao and President Petrosyan signed the agreement. The treaty reiterates the desire of the two nations in combating terrorism, drug trafficking, and other crimes. An agreement on economic and tourism cooperation was signed by union minister for tourism, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, and his counterpart, Mr. Safaryan of Armenia. Another agreement for cooperation in culture, arts, education, media, and sports was signed by union information and broadcasting minister, Mr. P.A. Sangma, and Mr. Martirosyan. Under the technical and economic assistance program, Armenian nationals will be given training facilities in Indian institutions. Besides, Indian experts will also be deputed to various Armenian institutions. Later, the prime minister hosted a lunch in honor of the visiting dignitary. This evening, the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, called on the Armenian president, Mr. Petrosyan, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] They discussed several regional and international matters. The vice president, Mr. K.R. Narayanan also called on the visiting dignitary. This morning, the Armenian president was accorded a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Mr. Petrosyan, who is on a five-day state visit to India, said both India and Armenia have warm, friendly, and historic ties and expressed his willingness to expand the ties further. [end recording]

Attends Banquet

BK1512040995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, has expressed the hope that the visit of the Armenian president to India will further strengthen the traditional relations between the two countries. He was speaking at a banquet in honor of the visiting Armenian president, Mr. Levon Ter-Petrosyan, in New Delhi yesterday evening. The president said that both the countries share a similarity of outlook on issues of global concern. He said the interaction between Armenia and India will contribute to regional cooperation and be a factor of peace and stability in the world. The president said the treaty of friendship and cooperation, which was signed yesterday, articulates the vision of a dynamic and multifaceted relationship.

Growth of Money Supply Restricted

BK0812161095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Lok Sabha was informed that the growth of money supply was restricted during the current financial year. In a written reply, the minister of state for finance, Dr. Devi Prasad Pal, said that the growth of money supply was around 30,000 crore rupees amounting to 5.7 percent till the 10th of last month. It was over 13 percent during the corresponding period last year. The minister said the RBI [Reserve Bank of India] credit policy also achieved its other objective of ensuring adequate credits to the production sector.

Iran

U.S. Strategists Seen Behind Taleban Appearance

LD1412212695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1530 GMT 14 Dec 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The UN Security Council, yesterday December 13th, issuing a statement regarding the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

settlement of the unrelenting Afghan contentions and strife through political channels, invited the conflicting parties to cooperation with this organization's envoy. Support for Mahmoud Mestiri's peace initiatives called for non-intervention in Afghanistan's domestic affairs [as heard], expression of condemnation over Kabul's bombardment by the Taleban faction as well as demanding this group to release the seven crew members of the Russian plane are among the important cases mentioned in the Security Council's statement.

Although the UN Security Council statement concerning the Afghan crisis is literally a positive step, at least in terms of getting attention towards the awful plight being experienced by this fratricidal community, nevertheless, this measure is merely a ceremonial action and nothing more. The United Nation's performance ever since the outbreak of internal clashes and factional strife inside Afghanistan some four years ago is clearly indicative of the fact that this international body enjoys absolutely no intention as to embarking on a really positive action in Afghanistan so much so that during this very period of civil war in Afghanistan the UN demonstrated lavish and enthusiastic presence and interference within numerous international disputes world over. Anyhow one should not forget that the formidable domination of the so-called big powers on the Security Council has greatly overshadowed the role of the UN organization in settlement of various regional and domestic conflicts for the better of the interests of those power-wielding states.

However, it seems that not even this little degree of attention and affection has stroked [as heard] the minds of the UN officials since the final pull out of the Russian forces from Afghanistan, especially among its permanent members. Of course there still is an irony here when it is said that U.S. policies regarding the Afghan dilemma have once again been activated without showing any tangible or evident manifestation at all. Although Washington's heed to Afghanistan is by no means a novel phenomenon and has deep roots in the American performance within the bipolar world and during the Cold War era, nonetheless its present form has given it special characteristics. In this connection a great many political commentators have termed quite inconceivable and next to impossible the sudden appearance of the Taleban faction and its swift expansion of dominance and influence throughout that country without the help of American strategists as well as Pakistani support; a matter which has had a tremendous negative impact on the Afghan dilemma and has surely evermore complicated it so much so that even the superficial efforts of the United Nations for peace in this country have been affected by these moves.

At any rate, one should take note that the tone of the recent Security Council statement concerning Afghanistan is to a great deal devoid of the new power equations between Afghan conflicting factions, a thing which, per se, has redounded to the ambiguity of the United Nation's role in the Afghan dilemma. [as heard]

Decision To Let UNHRC Envoys Visit Assailed

NC1212120795 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 Dec 95 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "America—Repeating Allegations of Human Rights Violations in Iran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] America's feelings about human rights have been hurt again. And The Zionists hope they can keep up their repetitive anti-Iranian propaganda at any cost.

Zionist hands are again working backstage against the Islamic Republic of Iran so that they can repeat their allegations of human rights violations in Iran. Such propaganda hooliganism no longer arouses the feelings of old but it can dampen the flames of Zionist hatred and spite against Islam and the revolution.

Today's Zionist propaganda aims to make Islamic Iran adopt a passive stance and to show the world that it is violating human rights. The true nature of Islam's enemies is very clear to nations and everybody knows that Islam's enemies top the list of the enemies of humanity and those who violate human rights. Who can forget America's savage crimes against the oppressed people of Bosnia? Who can forget that the Americans were accomplices in the Serbs' savagery? And who can forget the long list of inhuman crimes perpetrated by America worldwide?

Under such conditions the protests and opposition by the Zionists in America and Europe against Islamic Iran take on their special meaning when viewed within the context of their hatred and spite toward Islam, the revolution, and Iran. And this is how we should view the main objectives behind the anti-Iranian propaganda that is being spread in human rights circles.

It seems as if some decisionmaking centers in Iran have agreed to a visit by the UN Human Rights Commission [UNHRC] representative.

Officials reached their conclusion based on their confidence in their clear positions and their overt policies on human rights and believe that a sincere investigation of this will prove our just stance.

But the goodwill and sincerity of the Islamic Republic of Iran is only one side of the issue; as long as the other side lacks goodwill and shows the satanic nature it has

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

had from the start, any visit by a delegation will result in a repeat of regrettable experiences.

We are not speaking about specific individuals. Galindo Pohl or anyone else is only an instrument used to collect initial information. More important are the covert and overt hands that tamper with reports or distort facts. And the result is doubt and spite in the minds of those who read such reports. But we feel the need to ask a serious question: What do we expect to achieve by repeating past mistakes and by allowing special envoys of the UNHRC to visit Iran? All the facts show that the Zionists in America and Europe are trying to create an anti-Iranian atmosphere and are again trying to portray a distorted picture of human rights in Iran. Considering the overt and covert role of the secret hands, any move to let a new group visit Iran is simply a repetition of past mistakes. This is why we should, logically speaking, review this decision and give the Zionist mass media no more material to chew on.

Russia Seen Creating 'Crises' in Central Asia

NC1012182695 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 Dec 95 p 12

[Political commentary: "Impasse in the Fifth Round of Tajik Peace Talks"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The fifth round of the Tajik peace talks started on 30 November in the presence of representatives from the opposing sides and under UN supervision in the Turkmen capital, Ashgabat. In this session, like in past sessions, representatives from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Russia, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan attended as observers. [passage omitted]

Signs of an impasse became visible in the talks' first days, and both sides are accusing each other of being warmongers. [passage omitted]

The newly established Republic of Tajikistan has been involved in a destructive civil war since 1992; tens of thousands have been killed and there have been billions of dollars of damages. The war began when national and Islamic groups demanded the overthrow of the communist regime that had remained from the era of the former Soviet Union, and when communists—backed by Russia and Uzbekistan—entered the conflict. Although a new political structure replaced these two groups two years ago, the war between the national and Islamic Tajik groups and the current regime in Dushanbe continues. In this midst, Russia has always had the first say in political and military issues in that country, and the representatives of the Tajik opposition believe that even during the peace talks, it is Russia which makes the decisions and determines the fate of the talks. This phenomenon has led most observers and analysts of Central Asian affairs to conclude that Russia is a major cause of instability and insecurity, not only in Tajikistan, but in most of the Central Asian republics and in the Caucasus. This means that with their direct military presence, their behind-the-scenes political presence, or their indirect presence in the form of strengthening, arming, and supporting pro-Kremlin political groups that exist in almost all the republics, they are playing their role in forming the crises in this region.

Jannati Discusses Upcoming Majles Elections

LD1512112795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Provincial Network in Persian 0800 GMT 15 Dec 95

[Friday prayers second sermon by Ayatollah Jannati in Tehran — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: [passage omitted] An issue I have being meaning to raise for some time is the issue of the forthcoming [Majles] elections. You have seen in the press that a lot is being said on this issue and there are plenty of activities. The issue, however, is vast and one cannot allocate the entire Friday prayer sermons to it. I only wish to mention one or two points:

First, a question is repeatedly being asked. Despite answering this question on a number of occasions, it is raised again. It is being asked whether those individuals whose eligibility was rejected in previous rounds of the elections can nominate themselves again or not? The answer is they can certainly nominate themselves. We have said this before. Being rejected in the past does not necessarily mean they will be turned down again and should, therefore, not register their names. However, they should know that after nominating themselves as prospective Majles candidates their case will be investigated again. If the previous reasons [of turning down their candidacy] remain valid, they will be turned down again. Even if the past reasons for rejection have been amended, they might be turned down for some other reasons. But if we come to a conclusion that a person who was turned down during the previous elections has repented for his past mistakes and has proved his practical commitment to Islam, he will be endorsed this time.

Then again, a person whose eligibility was endorsed in the past might be turned down this time. There could be a number of reasons for turning down a previously endorsed candidate. There might have been new developments. It is possible to make a mistake in endorsing or rejecting a candidate. That is, his eligibility might mistakenly have been endorsed in the past.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The next issue about which there is much hue and cry is the issue of the Guardian Council supervision, that is, its recommended supervision. Frankly there is no need for so much sensation on this issue. The supervision has being going on since the beginning of the revolution. I have been in the Guardian Council since it was set up. I was involved in drawing up its regulations and have followed all its developments step by step. The council has always supervised the elections and eligibility of the candidates. One should, however, not expect this supervision to be superficial. The council is duty-bound to make certain whether the elections are fair and whether the Executive Committee has been right in endorsing or turning down a candidate. The supervision does not mean glancing through the recommendations of the Executive Committee to approve them.

The six members of the Guardian Council are appointed by the leader, a jurisconsult who is familiar with the requirements of the era. They are appointed and trusted by the leader. They are six jurists endorsed by the Majles. They are the trustees to supervise the Executive Committee's work to make sure nothing is inadvertently overlooked. This means they should have the power to annul the elections if they deem it necessary. They can even halt the election process if they realize it is not proceeding properly. In the same way they can alter the decision [of a committee] to turn down or to endorse the eligibility of a candidate. This has been done in the past. We have carried out our duties in accordance with the Constitution. However, on one occasion some cantankerous individuals and argumentative sensationalists pushed themselves forward to question the matter. Since that date, the issue has been raised by some people as to whether it [the supervision] is justified or not. In response we had to substantiate the issue by interpreting the Constitution that it has recommended this supervision. The Majles, too in its amendment of the elections law during the current term, ratified our interpretation and it became law. Our task, therefore, is to make certain that the candidates are eligible to become Majles deputies. [passage omitted]

Ruhani Comments on GCC, Islands Dispute

LD1412234295 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1945 GMT 14 Dec 95

[Interview with Dr. Hasan Ruhani, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council and deputy speaker of the Majles, by unidentified correspondent; from the "Political Roundable" program — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to the dear viewers of the weekly political program. [passages omitted]

Last week certain irresponsible and divisive remarks and claims by the heads of a number of southern Persian Gulf littoral states once again demonstrated their lack of political independence. Also, the recent Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [PGCC; Gulf Cooperation Council, GCC] session showed that some of its members are trying to dictate their views, which are induced by foreign circles, on the other members. Therefore this week's program is devoted to the importance of the Persian Gulf region and regional cooperation in this important and strategic area.

Our dear guest is His Excellency Dr. Hasan Ruhani, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] I would like to talk about the internal disagreements between the [PGCC] member countries. [passage omitted]

[Ruhani] Inside the council itself — if we leave Iraq out and say it is not in the council — there are deep-rooted disagreements. [passage omitted] They are incapable of resolving their internal disputes. And when faced with foreign threats, when Iraq invaded a member of the council, it is clear that none of the members could defend Kuwait even for a second, let alone an hour, or a day. They all fled from Iraq and sought the help of a foreign power called America, and later the allies who came to the region, as it were. And this shows that not only has the PGCC been incapable of reaching its predetermined goals, but that it has not been able to resolve even one of the disputes among its members.

[Correspondent] This inability [to defend themselves] has made the GCC member countries seek help from foreign elements, and we witnessed this especially during the second Persian Gulf War — the presence and intervention of foreign forces, especially the Americans, in the Persian Gulf region. What are the goals pursued by foreign powers?

[Ruhani] The Persian Gulf is important to foreign powers at least from an economic point of view, not to mention political, cultural, and military points of view. It is very important to them from an economic point of view, providing them with energy and a market for the sale of their weapons. If the West wishes to obtain cheap oil from the region it should have a kind of domination over this region. [passage omitted]

They [the West] wish to ensure that they have a permanent presence in this region, but they are faced with a problem. In order to have a permanent presence they need certain pretexts in the region and they must make these pretexts permanent. What can these pretexts be? First of all, they should keep the Iraqi regime

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

intact. If Saddam's regime were to fall and a democratic government were to be formed in Iraq, America would lose its main pretext. It would neither have an excuse for its presence, nor would it have an excuse for the sale of weapons.

On the other hand, they need to find another excuse; namely, to portray Iran as a country that poses a threat. This excuse is behind the issue of the three islands which they raise. These are the two excuses which the West raises. I would like to say that the greatest threat to America would be on the day when the issue of Iraq is solved and when Iran and the [United Arab] Emirates say that they wish to solve their problems by themselves. That day is the day of death to America [as heard], because under what other pretext can America have a presence in the Persian Gulf? How else can the West sell its weapons?

The best day for them is when there are disagreements in the region: disagreement between Iran and those countries, between Iraq and those countries, as well as disagreement among the latter. It [America] wishes to see fighting and conflict among those states themselves.

Saudi Arabia has always had a desire to dominate in the region, and they [the West] have encouraged it to have this state of domination over the other five countries, so that these disagreements could both justify the presence of the West, so that they [the Gulf states] themselves would ask for this presence, and so that they [the West] can have access to cheap oil from this region. [passage omitted]

If oil is to remain cheap and if this region is to remain a center for their presence and a center for the sale of their weapons, these pretexts must continue. Therefore, they intensify these pretexts. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] The Islamic Republic of Iran has up to now declared its readiness to sit at the negotiation table with the authorities of the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. And recently also the Islamic Republic announced that it is ready to talk with the UAE officials. How has the process of these negotiations been?

[Ruhani] Look, the three islands' situation is quite clear from a historical point of view as well as the legal point of view. These islands have belonged to the Islamic Republic of Iran throughout history, constantly from the days of the Achaemenian to the days of Nadir Shah when a bunch of marauders and pirates attacked [them]. Then Nadir Shah attacked the south and cleared those islands from the plunderers and Iran's domination over those islands increased at that time. Afterward also they have always have been in the possession of Iran. The three islands have always been under the control of the rulers of Bandar-e Lengeh port. Bandar-e Lengeh was an area that was always under the control of the big state of Fars. It has always been like that with the exception of a period of less than 80 years from 1904 when the British came to those islands. When they departed the Islamic Republic of Iran arrived in the islands. In fact the islands were restored to their original and mother land. During those 80 years Iran always made a constant and uninterrupted protest over the British presence in those islands. Iran never allowed the presence of foreigners in those islands to remain untroubled and unthreatened from the legal point of view. Therefore Iran has always declared its sovereignty over those islands. Then they came into their [British] possession. When the Iranian forces arrived in Abu Musa, the al-Shariqah ruler's brother came to welcome them. As you know at that time, in 1971, the UAE did not exist. Two days after Iran took possession of the three islands the UAE was declared. [Before that] there was nothing called UAE. There was al-Shariqah [in connection with] Abu Musa and Ra's al-Khaymah [in connection] with the Greater and Lesser Tumbs. After that there never was any difficulty. Even in 1971 any protests against Iran did not come from the UAE; it was Iraq, Libya, Algeria, and South Yemen which protested at the Security Council against Iran. Following the hearing of the protest at the Security Council and Iran's defense of itself the protest was filed away. That is, in reality their protest was rejected. Being filed away means they were not in the right.

After the victory of the Islamic revolution, when the UAE lodged a protest with the instigation of Iraq, yet again the protest was heard and again sent away to be filed. Therefore once again it was proven that they are not in the right. We no longer had any problems. That is from the victory of the Islamic revolution we had no difficulties amy more.

As I mentioned, when they see that relations between the southern states [of the Persian Gulf] are becoming very friendly with Iran, America and the Western countries incite the UAE and the issue of the islands is raised.

Now; this is what the Islamic Republic of Iran argues. First, from a historical point of view [the position of] the three islands is quite clear. Regarding Abu Musa, a letter of understanding between Iran and al-Shariqah has been drawn up. The memorandum is [still] valid and we are able to act according to it. But if they believe that there is a problem, a difficulty; the Islamic Republic of Iran has always been ready with open arms to sit with the UAE and listen to what they has to say. Iran has taken the initiative in that, i.e. it was Iran which in the first instance dispatched its foreign ministry director general to Abu Dhabi. When the first round of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

negotiations concluded it was decided that they should come to Tehran for the second round of talks. That invitation still stands and they should come to Tehran. Then Qatar mediated and called on Iran to go to Doha for talks. Once again we welcomed that and went to Doha. In fact the second round of negotiations have been held. After that, when the Cooperation Council held its meeting, it should have expressed its thanks over those negotiations, over the fact that Iran has been welcoming, even accepting Qatar's mediation. Why was it the other way round? As I mentioned, because of their own internal developments and international events. Israeli pressure, American pressure caused the tone of the language to become harsher.

Therefore, just as before, the Islamic Republic of Iran, welcomes with open arms any talks, anywhere, between Iran and the UAE. But according to the norms and tradition, since we did go to Abu Dhabi, it is their turn to come to Tehran for the negotiations to be continued and to settle any problems, if they exist, through bilateral talks.

As I mentioned, two Kuwaiti islands are under Saudi occupation and Saudi Arabia is not ready at all to let Kuwait even mention them. But [the three islands] have belonged to Iran throughout history and the Islamic Republic of Iran has not done anything particular — that is if there are any issues they go back to 1971, eight or nine years before the victory of the Islamic revolution. Nonetheless, if there is anything to say... [pauses]...As you know the ownership of Abu Musa island belongs to Iran but the sovereignty of the southern part of that island is at the disposal of al-Shariqah according to the 1971 memorandum of understanding. There, brethren from al-Shariqah and the UAE are present. There has always been fraternity and understanding between the Iranians in that island and the brethren from al-Shariqah. Essentially there is closeness and familial relations between the Iranian nation and the regional people, especially the UAE people. [passage omitted]

Therefore we have no difficulties. But one of the reasons for the UAE's protests is the differences and divisions inside the UAE itself. Abu Dhabi has a sort of hegemony over the other six emirates, it infringes their rights. Essentially one of the problems whose flames are fanned by Abu Dhabi within the UAE — as you know no one seeks to fan the flames of such problems in the UAE, it is only Abu Dhabi. [passage omitted]

Why does it do that? Because Abu Dhabi seeks to cover up its own problems with that. Who pursues this issue? Saudi Arabia. Why? It wants to cover its own hegemony. It has occupied Yemeni lands, it has occupied UAE lands, Qatari lands, Kuwaiti lands. It looks for another issue to cover that one. Therefore Saudi Arabia incites. America and the West incite. Why, because they seek to rationalize their presence.

Therefore I believe that in this issue, Abu Dhabi rulers should think further; look at their long term interests: cultural interests, economic and social interests. The Islamic Republic of Iran has always sought to establish friendly and fraternal relations with them. If they have any claims, we welcome talks with them in order to resolve any problems. We are certainly able to settle any problems through bilateral talks, God willing.

Khamene'i's Office Hails Leader's Welcome in Qom

LD1312202995 Tehran IRNA in English 2021 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 13, IRNA — The office of the leader of the Islamic revoluition, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, here Wednesday [13 December] issued a communique appreciating the hearty welcome accorded him during his visit to Qom earlier this week. It said the enthusiastic welcome given him by members of the ulema and the people in Qom and their having attended all occasions with the leader in Qom had disproved the hostile propaganda of the international arrogance which suggested a division between the people and the Islamic system of government in Iran.

It also quoted a verse from the Holy Koran saying today is the day when the unbelievers have abandoned their hope for corrupting Islam. The office of the leader voiced the personal thanks of the leader to all sectors of the people in Qom and especially to the families of martyrs and Muslim combatants, and wished for the steady progress of Muslim theological schools and the Muslim peoples of the world.

Atomic Energy Agency Benefits From Research Theses

LD1412115495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The countrywide congress aimed at achieving national development through cooperation between the government, universities, and industry continued its work today.

Addressing the congress, the head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization [IAEO], Mr. Reza Amrollahi, announced: The IAEO has so far manufactured 500 industrial lasers [as heard] and is prepared to receive new orders in this field.

He added: The IAEO is concentrating its activities to benefit from the results of the research undertaken by

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the university students and experts; and the organization has achieved great success through application of the conclusions recommended in the practical theses undertaken by the students and university graduates.

Daily: Navy Able to Respond to Future Threats

LD1212113895 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 12, IRNA — A morning daily commenting on the Iranian navy's reconsideration of its tactics and its adoption of a new strategy, said that measures should be taken in order that it would be able to respond adequately to any future threat from Israel or the U.S.

The English language daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' in its editorial on Tuesday wrote, "One and a half decades after the 1979 Islamic revolution, the Iranian navy, as an important wing of Iran's armed forces, has started reconsidering its tactics and adopting a new strategy that befits Iran's expected role as a regional power in the Persian Gulf."

The paper went on to say, "It has the experience of an 8-year costly war imposed by Iraq and it says it has learned a lot from the second Persian Gulf war when allied forces devastated Iraq."

It added that the new strategy includes an expansion and a modernization program that would empower the navy further and enhance its defense capabilities enabling it to cope successfully with any external threat.

"During the Iraqi-imposed war, the Iranian navy proved its superiority, incurring only slight damage to its fleet in its confrontations with the weaker Iraqi force. The few skirmishes it had with the U.S. navy in the Persian Gulf resulted in the damage of some of its ships, but the Iranian navy managed to undo the damage using the capabilities of its own experts and have since acquired new ships to further boost its fleet," the daily pointed out.

Iran has a 2,200-kilometer coastline along the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea and it believes it has to play a leading role in the region that befits the large stretch of waters it commands, it noted.

"Thus, it does not look only to the Persian Gulf as a place to play its role, but also the Oman Sea and even the Indian Ocean. The construction of the Chabahar base and the purchase of submarines from Russia should be viewed in this context," the paper stressed.

It continued, "A lesson Iran learned from the second Persian Gulf war was that it should improve its defense might and that priority should be given to radar and electronic systems. Subject to a strict embargo, Iran has not been able to move at a good pace to achieve this objective."

Nevertheless, it said that the embargo has proved to be somewhat of a blessing in disguise as it has given momentum to the drive for self-sufficiency not only in the navy but in the armed forces as well, forcing Iran to meet its requirements domestically and the country has been successful in this regard.

The paper added, "Military analysts believe that Iran is living in a convulsive neighborhood and it is a must for the leaders in Tehran to take the necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of a foreign-imposed war."

It pointed out that no immediate threat is perceived from the Islamic Republic's neighbors as its major rival, Iraq, is not in a position to threaten the more powerful and well-equipped Iran.

At least in the immediate future, Iran has the best of relations with Pakistan and enjoys irreversibly good ties with Turkey, the editorial mentioned, adding that there is no other country in the region that could be considered a threat.

"But there is a potential danger to Iran from more distant regions, this coming from Israel and the United States. Although the Iranian military leaders do not consider the Israeli threat of an air attack against Iran as real, preparations seem to have been made to respond to any possible strike," the daily pointed out.

It wrote, "Although a military confrontation with the United States is only a remote possibility, naval and air forces would play the biggest role in confronting the Americans. To adequately respond to a U.S. attack, Iran has to equip its navy with modern radars and electronic systems as well as missiles."

As a basic rule, there are ten factors that affect the outcome of a war, it underlined, stating that having more sophisticated weapons is only one such factor.

"Although the Iranian navy enjoys superiority over the Americans in at least six or seven of these factors, it is doing all it can to improve its defense capabilities and increase its chances for superiority in the ten factors. It is also going ahead with its strategy to ensure Iran's leadership and superiority in the Persian Gulf," the editorial concluded.

***Stipend Increases for Students Studying Abroad**

96LA0028A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 10 Aug 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Division—The level of increase of educational stipends of students studying

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

abroad was announced by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.

According to a report by the economic correspondent of RESALAT, the amounts of educational stipend of the students studying abroad affiliated with the government organizations will increase from the beginning of 1374 [21 March 1995] in accordance with the following chart.

Chart of the Increase in Educational Stipends of Students Studying Abroad, Ministry of Culture and Higher Education

Country	Level of Stipend		Increase	Volume of Increase	In Dollars
	Present	Suggested			
Germany	1,000	1,000 German marks [DM]	-	-	-
Austria	6,600	6,600 schillings	-	-	-
Sidney	750	$800 [Australian]	$50 [Australian]	$312,120 [Australian]	$27,809
London and suburbs	350	420 pounds	70 pounds	100,968 pounds	$149,311
England	300	350 pounds	50 pounds	527,680 pounds	$780,333
Belgium	20,000	20,000 Belgian francs	-	-	-
Pakistan	210	$210	-	-	-
Japan, except Tokyo	180,000	160,000 yen	This decrease is implemented in regards to students who are sent to Japan from 01/07/1374 [23 September 1995]		
Switzerland	1,000	1,000 Swiss francs	-	-	-
Sweden	500	$575	$75	$77,500	$77,500
Paris	3,200	3,500 French francs [Fr]	Fr300	Fr173,000	$35,000
France	3,200	Fr3,200	-	-	-
Holland	1,100	1,100 guilders	-	-	-
China	220	$270	$50	$3,000	$3,000
Norway	407	$470	$63	$3,120	$3,120
Russia	300	$320	$20	$102,096	$102,096
Denmark	440	$500	$60	$6,865	$6,864
Ireland	300	350 pounds	50 pounds	$214,580	$31,765
Central Asian Republics	300	$300	-	-	-
Hungary	370	$40	$30	$1,500	$1,500
Poland	370	$4	$30	$4,500	$450
Former Yugoslavian Republics	370	$400	-	-	-
Australia	750	$750	-	-	-
Romania	250	$350	$150	$2,200	$22,000
Malaysia	340	$400	$60	$1,800	$1,800

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Country	Level of Stipend		Increase	Volume of Increase	In Dollars
Dominican Islands	472	$472	-	-	-
India	250	$275	$25	$2,100	$21,000
Turkey	3	$4	-	-	-
Spain	440	440 pesetas	-	-	-
Italy	55,000	55,000 lira	-	-	-
Tokyo	18,000	160,000 yen	-	-	-
Canada	770	$770 [Canadian]	-	-	-
Finland	407	$470	-	-	-
New Zealand	55	$55	-	-	-
Philippines	15	$25	-	-	-
Sudan	342	$342	-	-	-
Czechoslovakia	370	$[illegible]	$30	$4,752	$4,752
Other	350	$350	-	-	-

Rafsanjani Inaugurates Giant Dam in Maragheh

LD1412141995 Tehran IRNA in English 1406 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tabriz, E. Azerbaijan Prov., Dec. 14, IRNA — President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani inaugurated the giant Alavian earth dam in the provincial city of Maraghah on Thursday [14 December].

The president in a speech said that it was a source of pride that the work on the giant dam completed a year ahead of the schedule.

On features of the dam, the president said that it irrigates 18,000 hectares of land in addition to supplying drinking water for the historical city of Maragheh for the coming ten decades.

President Rafsanjani added that if the project was to be implemented by foreign contractors it would have cost the country Rls. 800 billion, whereas the project has become operational at the cost of Rls. 120 billion.

The president expressed hope that the positive impact of the dam will soon be seen on some of the most fertile lands of the country, Maragheh.

Minister of Energy Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh speaking in the ceremony said that four dams have become operational in the country in the current year. He added that by March 1997 six more dams will become operational in the country.

The height of Maraghah's Alavian dam is 80 meters and its length is 935 meters. It has the capacity of reserving 145 million cubic meters of water each year, of which 25 million cubic meters is used for drinking and hygienic purposes.

Pakistan

U.S. Remark on Karachi Described as 'Interference'

BK1312113595 Islamabad THE NATION in English 13 Dec 95 pp 1, 11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad (APP) — A Foreign Office spokesman Tuesday evening described the comment by U.S. State Department on violence in Karachi as, "interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan and not in keeping with the principles governing relations between friendly countries".

He said this in response to a question on the matter. Commenting on the substance of the statement, the spokesman said that "the violence perpetrated by terrorists in Karachi was being brought under control by the strong measures taken by the government".

"These measures had been taken within the parametres of the law", he said, adding: "There have been no custodial deaths or extra judicial killings".

"Action has been taken when there have been police excesses. The government has not placed curbs on the freedom of the press or interfered with the independence of the judiciary", the Foreign Office spokesman said. The reference to MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]-controlled area of Karachi is peculiar, he said adding,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

no areas in Karachi or any part of Sindh or Pakistan is under the control of any group of terrorists or any organisation.

The resort to the murder of innocent relatives of Altaf Hussain and earlier of the brother of the Chief Minister of Sindh, which the government strongly deplored, the spokesman said, represented a setback to the government's efforts to bring normalcy to Karachi.

"A judicial inquiry of this heinous crime had been ordered. It, however appears that this tragedy was the desperate act of extremist factions who wanted to inflame passions, harden positions on both the sides and give rise to a new cycle of violence", he stated.

"The government will not allow these efforts to succeed", the spokesman said.

"It will continue to fight against terrorism whether fueled by political extremists or by narcotics traffickers and restore normalcy to Karachi", he said.

The government sincerely believes he said, in resolving political issues and differences in a peaceful manner through negotiations but it cannot compromise its stand on terrorism.

Senator Expresses 'Surprise' Over U.S. Statement

BK1412153995 Islamabad THE NATION in English 14 Dec 95 p 4

[APP report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Senator Iqbal Haider, in charge Human Rights Affairs of PPP [Pakistan People's Party], in a statement has expressed surprise over the statement of the US State Department on the violence in Karachi.

In the first place the statement of the State Department is unjustified, uncalled for and is a clear interference in Pakistan's internal affairs.

The timing and contents of the statement do not reflect favourably on the impartiality and commitment of the US Administration to combat terrorism.

Mr Haider recalled that while this statement referred to the killing of the brother of the Sindh Chief Minister, no statement was issued by the State Department at the time or when several other far more gruesome murders, massacres and other more violent and tragic acts of terrorism were committed by the terrorists from time to time in the past over ten years.

The fact is that no statement was issued then and no statement should have been issued now because these unfortunate and condemnable tragic incidents were Pakistan's internal affairs.

Senator Haider said that the present statement of the State Department appeared to suggest inordinate concern for the Altaf Group and would be construed as reflecting support for them and condoning their consistent terrorist activities.

The statement clearly appeared to have been prepared on the basis of information received from biased sources, without application of due care and independent mind, inter alia, because:

i) The statement has expressed deep concern over the alleged extrajudicial killings of most wanted and dangerous criminals but it has completely ignored the fact that one of the largest victims of terrorism during this year were the members of the law-enforcing agencies i.e. 200 killed and 153 injured so far larger than the number of Altaf Group terrorists i.e. 129 killed and 35 injured and by far the largest number of the victims were innocent citizens with no political affiliations who fell victims of the bullets sprayed by the terrorists mostly belonging the Altaf Group.

ii) The allegation that in the recent months extrajudicial killings, violence, extortions and custodial deaths by the security forces has sharply increased, stands disproved by the irrefutable fact that from July 1995 onwards there has been marked decline in deaths caused by violence and terrorism. In June 95, the death toll was 279: in July 273; in August it was 180; in September it was 112, in October it was 160, in November it was 139, and till 7th of December it was 18.

Out of this death toll, the number of persons killed belonging to Altaf Group during this month is as low as 19 in the month of June 95, 10 in July, 9 in August, 11 in September, 10 in October, 11 in November and 2 till 7th December.

Paper Supports U.S. Official's Views on Karachi

BK1312140995 Islamabad NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 12 Dec 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Robin Raphel's View"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the BBC, the U.S. under secretary of state, Robin Raphel, in describing the details of her recent visit to South Asia to a Congressional international committee, stated that the incidents of terrorism in Karachi are a result of political deprivation. What the U.S. under secretary of state said about the situation in Karachi is nothing new. In fact, all political circles in the country outside the government have been aware that political deprivation in addition to many other factors is at the root of the Karachi problem. They have been emphasizing the need for political measures along with administrative actions.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Thus, Robin Raphel, in a way, supported the standpoint of the country's political circles. We have also been advising through these columns that political harmony is necessary for a durable solution to the problem, and this should not be very difficult under a political and democratic government. But in practice, the government is not paying any attention to this aspect. It is also very clear that government measures against the terrorists and criminals cannot be effective unless it gets the cooperation of political and social forces. Leaders of the ruling party are seen appealing to the people for cooperation but the logical sources for acquiring this cooperation are never given any importance.

The people of Karachi have their representation only in the provincial assembly of Sindh. Even this representation is not very effective due to the government's actions and the non-political atmosphere. Karachi's representation in an important national institution like the National Assembly fails to give the impression of political and democratic representation, while representation on the local government level is totally non-existent. In the provincial assembly the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] has proved its popular mandate from Karachi and Hyderabad. Since it constitutes the opposition, in an environment of conflict between the government and the opposition, it complains of being stopped from playing a political role. Similarly, constant efforts to avert local bodies elections in the province is further strenghtening the feeling of political deprivation. In addition, due to confrontation with the MQM, the process of pushing the people of Karachi into a corner is creating more bitterness. Particularly, the police and rangers play such an agonizing role that they do not even spare innocent citizens. This state of affairs has forced even those political forces who had never supported the MQM in the past to side with it. Jama'at-i-Islami used to be its opponent.

If the federal and the provincial governments have their differences with the views of the local circles they should at least heed the views of the U.S. under secretary of state. Acknowledging the need for immediate measures to remove political deprivation, in the first phase the people of Karachi should be given the right to elect their representatives for local bodies, and then a new policy should be chalked out by taking the public representatives into confidence. The grave situation due to terrorism and crimes is a cause of concern to everyone. If no one is in favour of this situation then why not adopt a logical method and acquire the support and cooperation of all these forces.

Member of UN Group Expelled for Wife's Espionage

BK1312153095 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 13 Dec 95 p 2

[Article by Tariq Butt: "UNMOGIP Withdraws 'Spying Official'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The United Nations has withdrawn an official of the UN Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) after Pakistan asked the concerned agency to pull away the said man for his objectionable activities.

The wife of J.J. Richards was found involved in gathering information for a hostile country (India)," a senior official told THE NEWS Tuesday [12 December].

He said when a country asks for withdrawal of an official, it is a done thing in diplomatic parlance that the concerned agency takes him back immediately.

According to press report, Richards' wife was involved in espionage while using diplomatic cover of her husband. The official was deployed at the Line of Control in Azad Kashmir.

Meanwhile, a foreign office spokesman has described the report appearing in a section of the press about the expulsion of the UNMOGIP official as "totally baseless."

He said the Pakistan Government holds the mandate and the professional competence of UNMOGIP in high esteem. He said UNMOGIP has been monitoring the ceasefire line since 1949.

The news report had said that the government has decided to expel a civilian member of the UNMOGIP on espionage charges. It said Richards and his wife who hail from New Zealand were caught red-handed.

New Move for Settlement of Karachi Crisis Planned

BK1312162295 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 13 Dec 95 pp 1, 10

[Article by Javed Jaidi: "New Move for Karachi Solution on the Cards"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The government is planning a fresh move for the political settlement of Karachi crisis as the issue figured high during a meeting between President Farooq Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at Alwan-e-Sadr Tuesday, officials told THE NEWS.

Sources said the government has planned to speed up efforts for resumption of talks with MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement].

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The head of government's negotiating team Law Minister ND Khan was summoned to Aiwan-e-Sadr to brief the president and the prime minister about progress in reopening parleys with the MQM.

The government may offer a new power sharing formula to MQM for bringing them back to the negotiation table, the sources said.

They said both leaders while sharing concern over the concern over the murder of Altaf Hussain's kins in Karachi had expressed urgent need for peace in the city.

Sources said that besides resumption of dialogue with MQM the top two leaders of the country discussed various propositions for initiating the process of national reconciliation. During discussions they agreed to take national political parties into confidence on the important issues. On these issues the prime minister will hold meetings with the leaders of major political parties, the sources added.

THE NEWS learnt Chat veteran politician Nawabzaba Nasrullah Khan and Secretary Foreign Affairs Najamuddin Shaikh also joined the meeting for some time to focus on arrangements of OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] summit to be held in Pakistan. It was proposed that a coordination meeting of OIC member countries should be arranged in Pakistan prior to the summit.

The latest regional developments were also underlined during the discussions. The meeting was also briefed on current situation in Kashmir and Afghanistan by the foreign secretary. It also discussed the statement of US spokesman on law and order situation in Karachi.

Sources said later Nawazada Nasrullah Khan held a separate meeting with President Leghari wherein he discussed political situation. Sources said Nawabzada Nasrullah would be assigned an important task for the creation of national consensus on important issues and he may convene an all parties conference for the purpose, the sources disclosed.

Prime Minister Comments on Karachi Situation

BK1412155095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said the people of Karachi want the restoration of peace and that is why they have extended cooperation to the government in arresting the elements involved in bomb explosions and rocket attacks. In a panel interview with the daily AWAMI AWAZ in Islamabad, she said that while the situation in Karachi is taking a favorable turn toward normalization, some antisocial elements have tried to vitiate the atmosphere. She referred to the brutal murders of the brother of the Sindh chief minister and the stepbrother and nephew of Altaf Hussain in Karachi, expressing fear that the Altaf Group's own people might be involved in these incidents because it is the Altaf Group that is using these ghastly killings to its advantage.

The prime minister said that while the government intends to seriously implement the development package, the people of Karachi are being destroyed economically by the day-to-day calls for strikes. She pointed out that an incident of damaging the grave of Ziaul Haq has also occurred. These events and the disinformation campaign about the so-called economic crisis seem to be linked with the nefarious designs of vested interests.

Minister Blames Altaf Group for Talks Deadlock

BK1312154495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister for law, justice, and parliamentary affairs, Professor N.D. Khan, has said the government is serious in its talks with the Altaf Group to find a political solution of Karachi situation.

Talking to APP in Islamabad today, he dispelled the impression that government was gaining time only and said the Altaf Group ever since the beginning of talks showed lack of sincerity and honesty. He said record indicates that the Altaf Group is responsible for creating deadlock in the talks. Since the suspension of these talks violence has increased in Karachi, he said. Prof. N.D. Khan reiterated his call to Mr. Ajmal Dehlvi of the Altaf Group for resumption of talks and said it was up to him to decide the place and time of these talks.

Minister Ali on Afghanistan, Kashmir, Other Issues

BR1312103995 Milan PANORAMA in Italian 14 Dec 95 p 134

[Interview with Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali by Alvaro Ranzoni; place and date not given: "Forget Kabul" — first paragraph is PANORAMA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has a difficult job: upholding the image of a country engaged in half a dozen foreign and domestic conflicts and accused of hosting Islamic fundamentalists.

[Ranzoni] During a recent visit to Rome you met with former Afghan King Zahir Shah who lives in exile in Italy. Why?

[Ali] A courtesy call. We wish to keep open all channels with all the Afghan groups and leaders to facilitate the return of peace.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Ranzoni] Is it true that your support the Taleban fundamentalist guerrilla fighters and that you would welcome the return of the monarchy to Kabul?

[Afi] The solution must come from the Afghans. We do not back any particular group or personality.

[Ranzoni] Why can you not succeed in resolving the conflict with India over Kashmir, a conflict that has already led to three wars?

[Ali] India is trying to quash the revolt in Kashmir, violating human rights and increasing the risk of nuclear proliferation.

[Ranzoni] Why did you continue to host groups of extremists after the end of the Afghan war?

[Ali] When these groups were opposing the Soviet invasion they were the West's darlings; they were received by President Reagan in the White House. Once the war was over, people expected Pakistan to get rid of them from one day to the next. Things do not happen that way. Be that as it may, we have expelled many groups and hundreds of guerrilla fighters, especially Arabs.

[Ranzoni] Have you found the murderers of Iqbal Masih, the boy of 12 who became the symbol of the revolt against the exploitation of child labor and who was killed last April?

[Ali] Here we have a typical example of anti-Pakistani prejudice. Iqbal Masih was not 12 but 19. He was a dwarf who looked a lot younger than his age. The inquiry showed it and even his parents said so too, providing a birth certificate to prove it. He was killed not by the carpet manufacturing lobby but by the inhabitant of a village because that boy and two of his friends caught him committing unnatural acts with a donkey.

[Ranzoni] That story seems frankly unbelievable. Have you revealed it to the international press?

[Ali] Nobody bothered to report it. Meanwhile, Pakistan has lost millions of dollars' worth of exports to India.

Officials Ready for 'Structured Talks' With India

BK1112104095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 11 Dec 95 p 12

[PPI report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad (PPI) — Pakistan is ready for talks with India on all the eight non-papers exchanged by the two countries in January 1994, official sources said here on Sunday.

The sources told the news agency that Islamabad wanted to have "structured talks" with India as it has been our experience that whenever talks were held between the two countries in the past India's attitude was evasive towards the core issues including Jammu and Kashmir dispute, the sources added.

The sources, however, regretted that India had failed to create proper atmosphere for talks and repression in Kashmir continues unabated.

The sources, referring to the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Ms Robin Raphel's statement calling upon the two countries to resume direct talks, said that the talks would not yield any positive results unless the core issue of Kashmir was discussed.

It may be recalled that India had given six non-paper to Pakistan relating to the Line of Control, Siachen, Sir Creek, Wuller Barrage, confidence building measures and revival of joint commissions in January 1994 while Pakistan in response to these papers, had handed over two non-papers to the Indian Government calling for visible steps to stop repression and human rights violations and finalisation of modalities for holding of plebiscite in the Occupied Kashmir.

The sources said Robin Raphel's statement should be seen in the context of all the previous statements of the U.S. on the issue.

When their attention was drawn toward Raphel's remarks that "U.S. does neither recognize a plebiscite in Kashmir as solution nor does it accept the accession of Kashmir to India as genuine", the sources said that the United States never questioned legal soundness of the UN resolution which call for plebiscite and continue to regard Kashmir as a disputed territory.

They maintained that the U.S. had always encouraged both Pakistan and India to come to the negotiation table for solution of all outstanding problems including the Kashmir issue.

The sources, however, reaffirmed Pakistan's consistent position on the issue of plebiscite saying that it was the only viable option available to secure solution of the Kashmir problem.

"We have consistently been putting across our point of view to the U.S. that Kashmiri people must exercise their right to self- determination," the sources added.

They said that the Indian Government wanted to hold bogus elections in the Occupied Kashmir but it had to give up the plan which amply reflects that there was no other solution to the problem except allowing the people of Kashmir to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Talks With India on Trade Expansion Reported

BK1312152395 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 13 Dec 95 pp 1, 10

[Article by Shakil Shaikh: "India Willing for Talks on Trade Expansion"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — In line with Pakistan's principled position on transparent discussions over trade issue between the two neighbouring nations, India has conveyed its readiness for talks on Islamabad-sponsored proposals of zero-duty, specialised tariff and removal of apprehensions aired by FPCCI [Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry] and other chambers in Pakistan.

Hectic investigations into trade issue following WTO agreement reveal that unofficial papers containing different proposals on trade matters have been exchanged at official level.

"The opening of trade with India will take some time, or till such time India agrees to offer zero-duty, specialised tariff and remove apprehensions of Pakistan business community," said official sources, who admitted that in a recent exchange of unofficial papers, "India has shown its readiness to hold open, transparent discussions" with Pakistan.

With Commerce Ministry already commissioning a study being under taken by one Mohammad Salim (who worked with GAAT for 25 years and has been advising Saudi Arabia, UAE, China and Anzania [as published] on WTO matters) to consider "gall implications" of trade with India, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), have approached Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) for holding talks on a date to be fixed by the latter, disclosed sources in LCCI.

Confirming this, Secretary Commerce Salman Faruqui told THE NEWS that Pakistan's interests will be protected at all cost. "We will not allow any East India Company to come to Pakistan, unless our national interests are safeguarded."

"Such developments, with no opening of trade with India as yet, have taken place following a threat that India would be constrained to go to WTO tribunal against Pakistan for not accepting it as most-favoured nation (MFN)," revealed the investigations.

The WTO tribunal comprises five members and its decision is final, with no remedy provided to appeal against its decision. The tribunal has to decide the complaint within 90 days.

"So, Pakistan was pitted against heavy odds: either to implement WTO agreement or be prepared to see its status seized," said informed circles, who added: "since January 1995, all the 106 countries, including Pakistan, by signing WTO, have become MFN and there is no way out."

However, Commerce Secretary Faruqui has shown his determination to increase exports, without compromising the interests of the nation. "We have also sought expert advice from our missions in United States, Mexico and Canada, asking them for maximum information on how these nations have worked out their problems. We are trying to learn from their experiences," said Faruqui.

Investigations reveal that Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry has also been trying to hold talks with their counter organisation in Pakistan, as the government has conveyed to India that commerce and industry people must be sastisfied on the anti-dumping questions. "Any list containing items cannot be accepted unless our own people are satisfied," said official sources.

"Since our commerce and industry is quite younger to Indian commerce and industry, we want to have level playing field with offer of concessions to Pakistan."

"These concessions include zero duty and specialised tariff" said sources privy to unofficial papers which Pakistan has handed over to India through its own channels. "One thing is clear, we would not allow imbalance in trade with India unless the problem of status is resolved," added the sources.

"The second problem, which Pakistan has unofficially conveyed to India, is the issue of subsidy. Indian commerce and industry is not only large, but heavily subsidy in electricity, yarn and raw materials, and in such a situation, Pakistani commerce and industry would find itself unable to compete with Indians," said a businessman, who added that with heavy industrial structure and large production, Indians would start dumping in Pakistan which will result into crash of market. In a recent communication "through unofficial papers", said the sources, India has told Pakistan it would not go to WTO tribunal and would prefer to hold talks both with officials as well as chambers of commerce and industry levels.

Before the WTO agreement, Pakistan and India had 42 items on the trade list, with the number of items increasing to 477 till 1995. The trade was in public sector, but with the introduction of WTO, the trade between the nations, is supposed to be open with MFN status to each other.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

China-Aided Nuclear Plant To Be Commissioned in '98

BK1312143895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The 300-megawatt nuclear power plant being built at Chashma in collaboration with China will be commissioned in 1998. This was stated by the chairman of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed, while speaking at the convocation of Institute of Nuclear Power Engineering in Karachi today. He said in addition to acquiring nuclear power plants on turnkey basis, we have also undertaken an elaborate program of nuclear power indigenization. Specialized workshops for fabrication of various components of nuclear power plants have been set up. Centers and institutes working in areas of nuclear power plant design, instrumentation and computer control, and quality assurance have been established.

Dr. Ashfaq stated that while nuclear power remains its prime objective, the PAEC stands committed to implementing all the peaceful applications of nuclear technology to the benefit of the nation. He said Pakistan is actually confronted with the problem of load shedding [power cuts]. At present, at peak times, there is power deficiency of about 2,000 megawatts. The shortage is likely to reach 4,000 megawatts by the end of the century unless appropriate measures are taken to add new plans to the grid.

President Receives Indonesian Air Force Chief

BK1312160495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chief of the air staff of Indonesian Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Rilo Pambudi, called on President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari in Islamabad today.

During the meeting, matters pertaining to the professional cooperation between the two air forces came under discussion. President Leghari informed the Indonesian air chief about the gross violation of human rights and other atrocities being committed by the Indian military and paramilitary forces on the innocent Kashmiris for last many years. The president called for an early and peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions as it could not be solved through military means. Air Chief Marshal Mohammad Abbas Khattak and other senior officials of the two countries were also present during the meeting.

President Discusses Army's 'Professional Competence'

BK1112163495 Islamabad THE NATION in English 11 Dec 95 p 12

[APP report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Multan (APP) — President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that the power of "Eeman", (Faith) the mercy of Allah, and prime professional competence enable the Pakistan Army to face a better-equipped adversary with unflinching determination and indomitable courage. Addressing on Sunday the troops participating in the large-scale exercise Al-Khalid-III currently under way in the operational area of Multan Corps, the President said, "The professionalism of our forces is the guarantee of Pakistan's security and progress, and these are the factors which hold vital importance for us".

Stressing on the importance of security and independence, the President said that Pakistan's independence takes precedence over all other things, and it is well-equipped and well-trained army which the people and government are committed to provide to the country, says an ISPR Press release. "Resource constraints will not inhibit us from striving to give still better equipment to our army, whose professional leadership keeps the country's defense machine in top form", the President said.

Speaking of resource inductions and resource constraints, the President remarked that this problem can be solved by striving for self-sufficiency, not only in the field of defense, but in other facets of national life as well, the President remarked.

Flanked by the Corps Commander Lt-Gen Mohammad Maqbool, the President's address was greeted by slogans of Allah-o-Akbar by troops who had just participated in an assault over an area lying across the grand-stand. The Chief of the Army Staff Gen Abdul Waheed explained that this strike Formation was testing the Army's doctrine of offensive-defense whereby armored columns, supported by attack helicopters and long-range artillery are being deployed in real time. Assault Engineers have thrown up a bridge in record time, Signals is providing excellent communications, air defense units are active, EME [expansion unknown] and ASC [Army Service Corps] are providing technical and logistic support, and the Medical Corps deployed all over the area.

Meanwhile, the President witnessed last phase of the main tank battle fought between the Blueland and Foxland forces in which the latter established a stronghold over the lost territory to the enemy.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Earlier, on arrival he was briefed by senior officers about Al-Khalid Exercise, 1995 and the nature of dispute in the imaginary war between the two forces. In a real-war-like counter-offensive, Bluelanders displayed their agility of mind and physical prowess to regain their land.

General Sees No Cutbacks in Military Budget

BK1212022395 Islamabad THE NATION in English 11 Dec 95 pp 1,4

[Report by Haider Hasan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hasilpur — COAS [Chief of Army Staff] General Abdul Waheed has said we are living in a very sensitive part of the world, a lot is happening around us and to cope with it we have to be ready at every moment of the time as anything can happen, adding 'I hope nothing happens.'

He said so in a discourse with newsmen while witnessing Army exercise Al-Khalid III near Hasilpur on Sunday morning.

President Farooq Leghari also witnessed the launching of tanks attack on the enemy position while Army Aviation and the PAF [Pakistan Air Force] providing the air cover providing the air cover.

Two infantry and one armoured divisions will be participating in the exercise, form December 14 to 28.

The exercise is precisely a demonstration of the Army's various branches' professional capability in fighting and making bridges over rivers and canals with minimum possible time.

Military observers from USA, China, UAE, Turkey and Saudi Arabia are also present in the exercise area to witness the mettle of the Pakistan.

Maintaining that the Army is fully capable of defending the country's frontiers, the COAS said that skill shown by the officers and men is a proof of the fact whatever may be the enemy's strategy, the way they overcome hazards show the flexibility of their planning and alertness of the mind. The exercise is gone almost on the dot.

Replying to a question during the discourse, he said the nation does not have to thank me for the military's precision and professionalism. The exercise is not the first of its kind. The Army is very well-trained and has to be that way because we are living in a very 'critical' part of the world. A lot is happening around us and to face that one has to be ready at every moment of the time. Anything can happen. I hope nothing happens.

When a newsmen remarked that the COAS has a very high image and stature in public estimation because of his professionalism he quipped. "I am very glad to hear this very good information. I thought otherwise after reading newspapers."

When asked how would he like the holding of such exercises next year, the General said one has to be very careful as these exercises are very expensive and we have to make sure that the Army gets the fullest possible gains out of the exercises.

It is not that we always stage big exercises. A lot goes into it when you have big exercises. We can gloss over smaller actions but we do not want that to happen. These exercise are the culmination of several years of training. However, other activities are also important. So we may not hold the exercise in that manner and on that scale because they have a certain value and not beyond that. Next year we shall hold the exercise in this form of the other. Yet the training will continue, he said.

When a newsman expressed the hopes that the COAS would be supervising next year's exercise, General Abdul Waheed shot back 'You think you are very clever.'

A reference to the financial crunch the Army is facing, prompted the general to quip: This is why we do not talk to you. You twist things beyond the meanings. Somebody had asked me that people are cutting down defense budgets around the world what about cutting down the defense budget in Pakistan, which is a poor country?

I tried to explain that inflation has cut down defense budget not only in Pakistan but around the world. I wish we could do that. Strangely enough what I said was twisted. I am not criticizing anyone. Excepting only the last occasion, I must say the Press in Pakistan has always been very fair with me. It never tried to twist my words, he said.

He maintained that other countries should be grateful to us because with the collapse of the Soviet Union, they can afford to cut down on their armies. I wish we could do that also. For economic development, we need more than the developed countries for being a poor country. All these funds should better go to the economic development of the country but we have no option but to maintain this Army and the key to this compulsion on our part lies with our adversaries.

Replying to a question about holding joint military exercises with other countries, he said such exercises have been held since the inception of the country and the Army. Pakistan had been holding naval exercises in coordination with the USA, UAE, Iran and Turkey. But the nice thing now is keeping peace. Which really brings us closer to other armies of the world. Whatever

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

exercises we do in coordination with other countries are also oriented towards peace keeping.

When asked if he was satisfied with the technology the Army was equipped with at present. He said, "Yes, absolutely satisfied, but it could be better. We are very grateful to the nation for whatever we have. We do not have the best and state of the art equipment but whatever we have is very effective and we are sure of ourselves and the equipment."

Meanwhile, Army exercise Al Khalid-III entered its decisive phase when combined all arms forces were unleashed to attack and destroy the invading enemy forces which had been progressively attrited and conditioned. As part of a joint land-air strategy the offensive was spearheaded by armored forces integrating all arms teams, says an ISPR Press release.

The offensive launched by own forces entailed crossing of a major water obstacle under simulated hostile environment. The enemy forces were subjected to intense punishment incorporating air, combat aviation, tanks and artillery before the breakout forces penetrated deep into the rear to isolate and destroy the hostile forces.

The President accompanied by the Defense Minister, Chief of Army Staff, General Abdul Waheed and Corps commander Lieutenant General Muhammad Maqbool, witnessed manoeuvres of the armored CJCSC [expansion unknown] Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroz Khan, CNS [Chief of Navy Staff] admiral Mansoorul Haq, CAS [Chief of Air Staff] Air Chief Marshal Abbas Khattak were also present on the occasion.

Sri Lanka

Defense Official Interviewed on 'War' Situation

BK1112065095 Colombo SUNDAY OBSERVER in English 10 Dec 95

[Interview with Deputy Defense Minister Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte by correspondent Lakshman Gunasekara; place and date not given — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Question [Gunasekara]: Many people in the South seem to have the impression that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has now been vanquished and the war is won. Is this true?

Answer [Ratwatte]: No. We have won the first phase of the war. It is a big psychological victory for the nation which has lived under the fear of the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] and a fear psychosis and believing in the invincibility of the LTTE. To find that they can be defeated and have been defeated in their very heartland and headquarters of Jaffna could be considered a victory in that sense. But we have gone only a part of the way and have more distance to go. We have gone perhaps sixty per cent of the way; not in terms of physical territory, but in the fact that we have been able to break the capability of the LTTE to a great extent.

Q. In terms of actual territory, what is the area of the country yet 'uncleared'?

A. In the Peninsula, there are the Thenmaarachchi and Vadamaarachchi divisions. Then there is the Vanni.

Q. Would you consider the Eastern Province as an 'uncleared' area?

A. No, no. We have cleared up most of the area. It is only that we had pulled out some units from there for operations elsewhere, and a few people there are trying to create trouble. But with a new re-deployment of troops we will be able to maintain control without much difficulty.

Q. Will there be large operations similar to Riviresa [sunshine] in the Vanni and other sectors, for example, to re-capture the rest of the Peninsula?

A. We will be continuing our operations, but I cannot talk about their scale or where they might be held.

Q. The President says that the Government is yet ready to talk with the LTTE. If the LTTE comes forward, will the security forces cease offensive military operations in order to re-start the talks?

A. As the President herself has stipulated, the LTTE must first lay down their arms, in order to start talks. If they do this, then there will be no need for us to fight them!

Q. When you say 'lay down arms', you no longer mean any symbolic action, but a real disarming...?

A. Certainly not a symbolic action. We have learnt a lesson from the last time they did that in 1987. We mean a physical handover of weapons.

Q. A total hand over of all weapons...?

A. Not necessarily a total handover of all weapons. There must be a start. They must start the process of physical hand over in order to show that they are serious about the disarming.

Q. Some Sinhalese are arguing that any new cessation of hostilities will only help the LTTE to re-cover and re-arm. What is your response to those who would reject all options for dialogue with the Tigers? Can you say that a continued military campaign alone will solve the problem once and for all?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

A. In the first instance, we will not have a ceasefire until the LTTE agrees to disarm and demonstrates their compliance by the physical hand over of arms.

Q. So you don't think, that despite the recent success, the problem can be resolved by military means alone.

A. We have made our position clear before the whole world. We believe, that without a political solution we cannot have a lasting peace.

Q. When will the Government be in a position to bring the displaced population back into Jaffna?

A. We are taking urgent steps. That is first priority. Our battle has been to liberate areas of the North and restore normalcy there. We are launching a full programme of work.

Q. Some Tamil groups are insisting that a ceasefire is necessary to enable the displaced people to return to Jaffna. Is this feasible?

A. Anyone familiar with the situation in the North will understand that this is not realistic argument. In any case, the LTTE has shown no inclination to ceasefire.

Q. The PLOTE [People's Liberation Organizatin of Tamil Eelam] and EPDP [Eelam People's Democratic Party] have operated as militias along side the security forces in Vavuniya and on the islands off the Peninsula. Do you see a role for them in the Peninsula?

A. Not militarily. They may participate in the political process and in the rehabilitation work.

Q. Do you expect the Tamil civilian political parties to resume political activity in the Jaffna area now?

A. Well, once we clear the environment, we expect democratic political activities to begin. If any parties want to come and work among the Jaffna people, they are most welcome.

Q. In the recent incident in the East, there have been complaints that the STF [Special Task Force] personnel went on the rampage and a number of civilians were killed. If this kind of excess occurs, can you give the assurance that you will take firm disciplinary action?

A. We have given a great priority to maintaining discipline in the forces. Under the PA [People's Alliance] government there have been very few problems of indiscipline. The number of civilians affected have been minimal, especially when compared to the situation in the past. I have not yet received confirmation of the incident in the East. We are inquiring. I will take very firm action against any breakdown of discipline.

Devolution Said Only Solution for Peace, Prosperity

BK1412040095 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 14 Dec 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "Once the devolution of power is implemented with the settlement of the war in North and East, the United National Party will not come to power even for another fifty years, because the devolution of power is the only solution to bring peace, prosperity and justice to all citizens and also to re-establish democracy in the country," said Mr. A.H.M. Fowzie the Minister of Health, Highways and Social Services at a meeting held at Kotugoda in Minuwangoda electorate, Gampaha District.

This meeting followed the opening of Kotugoda water supply scheme completed under the guidance of Mr. Prasanna Ranatunga, the Western Province Minister of Transport, Highways, Sports and Youth Affairs.

The Minister said no leader in the country has been able to take timely action to eradicate ethnic, religious and language problems. President Chandrika Kumaratunga has adopted the correct attitude to solve these problems.

The sole ambition of the Government is to bring peace, prosperity and safeguard democracy in the country. The proposals were being prepared by considering past occurrences.

The devolution of power will not hinder religious and personal freedom of any community, added the minister.

The country was completely neglected by the previous regime. There is no possibility of washing away sins committed by the United National Party in the post seventeen years in a jiffy.

The Minister speaking on the budget said the opposition thought that the budget would place heavy burdens on the people but that wish has been shattered. Amidst various difficulties we have given many benefits to all the people in the country.

The president has instructed all MPs and the ministers to be in their respective electorate and devote their time to development activities. She has directed them to personally supervise development projects, added the Minister.

The PA [People's Alliance] government has understood the problems of the people and a firm decision has been taken to work for the betterment of the country, in keeping with the promises given at the elections.

Most of the hospitals in rural areas were neglected for 17 years. No proper action was taken to see to the health

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

facilities available to people. The government plans to improve all hospitals, the minister said.

Military Fears LTTE Planning 'Massive Attack'

BK1512064295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0613 GMT 15 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Dec 15 (AFP) — The Sri Lancan military said Friday [15 December] it was worried by a sudden lull in fighting since the capture of Jaffna from the Tamil Tiger guerrillas a fortnight ago.

A military spokesman said the relative calm across the island's northeast since the former rebel bastion of Jaffna fell to the troops on December 2 meant the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was readying for more [word indistinct].

"This silence (by the LTTE) is not good," the spokesman said. "They have to do something to regain the credibility which they have lost by losing Jaffna to us.

"They must be preparing for some massive attack on isolated (military) posts or something major," the spokesman added.

Other army sources said the LTTE, one of the world's most ruthless guerrilla groups, would be preparing to stage some spectacular action to regain the initiative in the dragging Tamil separatist war.

Nearly 2,500 people were killed on both sides in Sri Lanka's biggest military campaign launched on October 17 that led to the capture of Jaffna town in the island's north after almost 50 days of bloody fighting.

Jaffna was the capital of a huge de facto state the Tigers ran in northern Sri Lanka since 1990. There has been virtually no fighting in the area for two weeks.

The bulk of the LTTE's estimated 10,000-15,000 guerrillas have shifted to Vanni region in the mainland, south of Jaffna, as well as to the country's east where security forces have launched limited operations against the Tigers.

The LTTE has accused the army of heavily shelling Jaffna peninsula's Vadamarachchi region, the birthplace of its supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran, but there have been no counter-attacks by the rebels.

"There is no doubt the LTTE is preparing something big," added a Tamil source here. "The LTTE has lost face by losing control of Jaffna, and they will certainly take revenge ... Maybe in Colombo."

The LTTE still controls large areas in Sri Lanka's north, including parts of Jaffna peninsula, and the east coast.

The LTTE had earlier vowed to fight to the last man in Jaffna. But its fighters melted away in the face of the advancing army, which is now engaged in beefing up its strength in the northern town.

On Thursday, the army opened a brigade headquarters in Jaffna for the first time since 1983, when Tamil militancy assumed volcanic propo@tions following an anti-Tamil pogrom in Colombo which left nearly 600 people dead.

The government has promised to speed up development activities in Jaffna to lure back the tens of thousands of Tamil civilians who fled the place in the wake of the October army offensive.

Thousands of the refugees are still holed up in the Tigers-held southern part of Jaffna peninsula. Thousands of others have crossed over by boats to the northern mainland, also controlled by the LTTE.

More than 50,000 people have died in the separatist campaign for a homeland called Eelam in Sri Lanka's northeast.

Official on 'Future Operations' Against LTTE

BK1512115995 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy Defense Minister Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte says that detailed plans have been drawn up for future operations against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. The minister was speaking at a ceremony to hand over donations to the National Defense Fund at the Defense Ministry yesterday. Col. Ratwatte pledged to create an environment which would enable civilians who had been ousted from their homes by the terrorists to lead a normal life. Liberation from terrorism and the right to peaceful coexistence were among the principal aspirations of Jaffna civilian population. The minister declared that the government would make every possible effort to restore civil administration in the other areas of the north as soon as possible. He pointed out that the propaganda campaign carried out by the LTTE theoretician, Anton Balasingham, had now lost its credibility. Referring to the police and Army officers held by the LTTE, Col. Ratwatte said that the ICRC [International Committee for Red Cross] had undertaken to ensure that they were treated in accordance with international convention.

Clashes have been reported between the LTTE and civilians in the north. Sources from the north say that these clashes could intensify and effectively undermine the terrorists' grip over the civilian population. The

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Tigers' travel restrictions are said to be the main cause of the dissent. In one incident, a brawl had broken out between LTTE cadres and civilians who were being detained in the Vadamarachchi area. The civilians had been outraged when the terrorists refused to grant them permission to travel to Vavuniya. They attacked several cadres and the local LTTE office. Civilian sources say that the Tigers now issue travel passes for Vavuniya only in the case of dire emergencies such as serious illnesses. The families of persons who are allowed to leave LTTE-held areas are held as surety until they return.

A Colombo-bound Indian Airlines flight from Madras returned after take off to off-load six women suspected of links with Tamil Tiger guerrillas. According to the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA, police alerted the state-owned airlines to the presence of the women. The news agency said that they were from a local refugee camp set up to house Sri Lankan Tamils. The flight left for Colombo after a delay of nearly three hours. The news agency gave no other details.

Fifteen Tamil civilians on a hunting trip in the Wimbadi jungle, Tirrukkovil, Amparai received serious injuries when a group of terrorists attacked them on Monday [11 December]. The Operational Headquarters of the Ministry of Defense said that 13 were treated at the Tirrukkovil Hospital while two were admitted to the Batticaloa Hospital. Police successfully repulsed the terrorist attack on one of their posts at Pannakuda, Eravur, 13 km west of Batticaloa. Police did not suffer casualties.

A fisherman identified as S. Kandaswamy was found dead with gunshot injuries at Batticaloa on Monday. It is suspected to be the work of the LTTE.

LTTE Leader Gives Martyrs' Day Address

BK1412042395 (Internet) soc.culture.tamil in English 11 Dec 95

[Message from LTTE Leader V. Pirabakaran issued by the LTTE on the occasion of "Martyrs' Day" on 11 December; place not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] My beloved people of Tamil Eelam, Today is Martyrs' Day, a sacred day in which we cherish the memory of our heroes who have sacrificed their precious lives for the cause of the freedom of our nation.

Our martyrs have died for the liberation of this land so that our people could live in our land with freedom, dignity and security.

This is our land, the land in which we were born, grew and live, the land which bears the foot prints of our forefathers, the land in which our culture and history are rooted. Our martyrs have died for the objective that this land should belong to us. They have died for the cause of liberating this land from the shackles of alien domination and transforming it into an independent sovereign nation.

In the sacred war of liberating our homeland our heroes have made supreme sacrifices which cannot be described in words. Extraordinary deeds never before happened in the history of the world have taken place in this land, for the freedom of this land. The ideal dream, the spiritual yearning of those thousands of martyrs who have created this heroic legend will be actualised one day.

Today the war of aggression against our land by the enemy has reached a phenomenal scale. Having mobilised all its military power and having utilised all its national resources, the enemy has launched a massive invasion on the Jaffna soil. Our traditional land of ancient historical glory is being systematically destroyed by the enemy's firepower. The intense shelling that rains down unabatingly has wiped out the face of Jaffna. The fundamental objective of this war of aggression is to destroy the economic resources and the cultural heritage of Jaffna thereby uprooting the national life of the people.

This war is not, as the government claims, against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. This war is against the Tamil people, against the Tamil Nation. The objective of this war is to destroy the Tamil Nation. This racist war of Sinhala chauvinism has a long history. It has been going on before the birth of the LTTE. It has started by Chandrika's father. Now, Chandrika's government has given total expression to this racist war. The strategic objective of this war is to annihilate the national identity of the Tamils by destroying their life and property and their land and resources.

Wearing a peace mask and pretending that she was committed to a peaceful resolution of this conflict, Chandrika was able to cheat the Sinhala people and the world and assumed political power. Having taken the reins of power she staged a drama of peace negotiations. We extended our hands of friendship seeking a peaceful solution to the Tamil National question. To promote the peace process, we released the prisoners of war as a gesture of goodwill. During the peace negotiations we neither put forward stringent conditions nor rigid demands. We requested Chandrika government to lift the economic embargo and the restrictions on travelling and to create conditions of normalcy. We requested the government to alleviate the suffering of our people who have been subjected to extreme difficulties without the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

basic needs of life. But Chandrika government was not prepared to concede even these meagre concessions. As the talks prolonged fruitlessly for over a period of six months we realised an important fact — that Chandrika government was not interested in peace nor in a peaceful resolution of the conflict. Since primacy was given to military concerns throughout the negotiations it became very apparent to us that Chandrika regime was seriously considering the military option.

The monumental scale in which the invasion has been launched on Jaffna amply illustrates the politico-military objective of the government. The strategy aims at the encirclement and occupation of the densely populated vital area of the Tamil homeland and to proclaim to the world that Jaffna society is 'liberated'. But this strategy of Chandrika government has turned out to be a disaster since the people of Jaffna city and Valigamam region evacuated the area before the encirclement of the army. This massive exodus has demonstrated the fact that the people of Jaffna, in a unanimous stand, have expressed their opposition to the government war effort and absurd reasons attributed to it. This mass exodus has impressed upon the Sinhala Nation and the world that the Tamil people are no more prepared to be subjected to Sinhala state administration and that the people and the LTTE could not be separated. Therefore, Chandrika regime has failed to achieve the political objective behind the Jaffna offensive.

We are relieved that our people have safely escaped from the military siege and the political trap behind it, yet we are deeply sad about the enormous suffering and pain they are subjected to as a consequence of this mass displacement. It distresses us deeply that our people have had to vacate their traditional villages where they lived for centuries and leave their houses, lands and property and become destitutes. Yet, we consider such tragic experience and suffering as a tremendous contribution by our people to the cause of national emancipation. This mass exodus proclaims to the world that our people are determined to live as free beings with self-dignity and that they are prepared to face any form of suffering to be independent rather than subjecting themselves to the domination of the aggressor.

The Sinhala military devils may hoist victory flags in depopulated Jaffna which has been reduced to rubble. The Sinhala chauvinistic gangs in the South may light crackers in jubilation assuming that they have captured the kingdom of Jaffna. Chandrika may send peace signals believing that military hegemony has been achieved. In these circumstances we wish to make it absolutely clear that as long as the Sinhala army is occupying Jaffna the doors for peace will be firmly closed. The LTTE will not participate in the peace negotiations imposed at the point of a gun subjecting itself to military pressure. This is the message we wish to address to Chandrika regime. It will be nothing other than political stupidity if Chandrika government thinks that it can bring about peace and political settlement by occupying Jaffna and uprooting hundreds of thousands of people. The invasion of Jaffna is a gigantic historical blunder made by Chandrika regime. As a consequence of this act the Colombo government has closed all avenues for peace and plunged the entire island into grave conflictual situation.

There is absolutely no truth in claims made by the government controlled media that the LTTE has suffered heavy casualties and that it has been weakened by the offensive on Jaffna. In the battle of Jaffna, we have neither suffered heavy casualties nor been weakened. It is the armed forces that have suffered more casualties than the LTTE.

We have fought efficiently within our capability against huge military formations with formidable manpower and firepower which advanced along a geographical terrain advantageous to them. Though we fought under extremely difficult and dangerous conditions we did not suffer heavy casualties. Neither our manpower nor our military structure is affected in anyway. The army's strategy to entice us into a conventional war to destroy our manpower did not work. In the battle of Jaffna we faced a set-back. It is a temporary set- back. We faced serious set-back during the Indian military occupation. But we were not defeated. In the end, it was the Indian army which faced defeat. Therefore, today's set-back will turn out to be a victory tomorrow.

Sri Lankan army has over-stretched its feet on the Jaffna soil. It is not a difficult task to conquer territories by mobilising large formations of troops. But it will be a difficult task to hold the territories captured. This is the historical reality faced by the aggressive armies all over the world.

The Sri Lankan army will soon learn this historical truth. Sri Lankan state is attempting to determine the political destiny of the Tamils on the basis of military power. It assumes that it can impose an inadequate solution on the Tamils by military hegemony and territorial aggression. Such a military solution underlies Chandrika's conception of 'war for peace'. Any Tamil with self- dignity will not accept such a solution. To frustrate this government's scheme and to advance our liberation struggle, we are left with only one alternative. We have to strengthen our military structure and intensify our struggle. It is only by strengthening the military power the Tamils could freely determine their political destiny. It is only by strengthening our military

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

power we could live with security; we could gain our lost territories; we could return to our homes as free men.

The task of building the military power of the Tamil Nation has become the inevitable historical necessity today. This is crucial for the survival of the Tamil Nation.

Our Nation has been forced into a necessity to struggle for survival. The young generation of Tamils cannot escape from this national duty, from this call of history. Any delay in this task will endanger the existence of our Nation. Therefore, I call upon the younger generation to join our liberation movement without delay. The earlier the youth join our movement the quicker we can achieve the objectives of our struggle.

We call for the support and solidarity of the world Tamil community at this critical time when we are faced with a genocidal war all alone without any external assistance. We appeal to the people of Tamil Eelam living abroad to champion the cause of our struggle and assist us in all possible ways.

On this sacred day when we remember our martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for national freedom and attained historical immortality, let us pledge to commit ourselves to the cause for which thousands of our freedom fighters laid down their lives.

(V. Pirabakaran) Leader,

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

LTTE Preventing Civilians From Returning Home

BK1412125095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Most stocks of food are being dispatched to Jaffna to ensure an adequate supply of all foodstuffs for the people of the peninsula well in time for the festive season. In addition to the food supplies, the government has also ensured that the people will have their power supplies soon. Engineers have already been deployed to accelerate the power supply on the instructions of irrigation, power and energy minister, Colonel Anuruddaha Ratwatte. Four shiploads of food and other essentials totalling over 12,000 tons will reach the north well in time for Christmas. This is in addition to about 40 lorry-loads of food going to Kilinochchi, Mullaittivu and Vavuniya north from the Vavuniya and almost daily. [sentence as heard]

Rear Commodore Buddhi Siriwardene who is in charge of relief shipments in the north said that in addition to the civilians in the liberated areas, we will also have to look after the displaced people arriving in Kilinochchi, Mullaittivu and Vavuniya. Therefore, about 35 to 40 lorries will take food supplies to these areas almost daily. He said that they had also taken precautions to prevent any short supply of food or other essential items not only to liberated areas but also to the displaced families in other areas in which 252,000 displaced persons are now living.

The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is carrying out an insidious campaign to prevent the Jaffna civilians from resettling in their homes. The reason being that large numbers of civilians have made representations to return to their homes. Northern sources say that groups of civilians have banded together and made attempts to return to their dwellings. In one instance, over 100 civilians carrying white flags have attempted to get back to their homes from Tenamarachchi to Kaithali when armed LTTE cadres had threatened them and turned them back. Two other groups in boats had attempted to travel from Tenamarachchi to Gurunagar when the LTTE again prevented them. However, one group managed to evade the LTTE and reached their destination.

Northern information sources say that the LTTE will not succeed in stopping the civilians from reaching their homes very soon as they are determined to go back. A northern political party leader says that there are several reasons for the situation. He said that the LTTE persuaded the civilians to settle by impressing on them that Jaffna would not be safe during the Operation Riviresa. The civilians have realized that they have been deceived by the LTTE and that the civilians were not harmed during the operation. They are now convinced that they should return to their homes.

Another reason is that the LTTE has not been able to provide amenities to the civilians. The politicians are of the view that if the government speeded up the rehabilitation program, the forced evacuation would end as the civilians would be obliged to return.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.